

HOW TO MAKE GLOVES ~ SECTION 1

1950—How to Make Gloves
by Eunice Close

Introduction

When you take up glove making as a craft you are joining a company which has a long and honorable history, going back through many centuries. Nobody quite knows when gloves were first worn generally by both men and women, either as a means of keeping warm or as an indispensable part of the costume. We do know that strong leather gloves were worn for hawking as far back as the twelfth century.

As time went on, elaborately decorated gloves were worn on ceremonial occasions by the clergy and nobility alike. The antique gloves which have survived to the present day are naturally those which belonged to the most important people of the time so that we have little or no information as to what ordinary people wore. In Elizabethan times gloves were made from the finest leather or from silks and satins, often elaborately embroidered with gold and gems. Many beautiful examples have come down to us from this and later periods and may be seen in museums up and down the country.

In the fifteenth century the glove makers banded together in guilds and these guilds were powerful enough to enforce their own very high standards. Gloves which did not reach this standard were seized and burned. This pride in good workmanship has survived to the present day for the old-established firms are justly proud of their high reputation.

Nowadays gloves are much simpler than those of earlier times, although the elaborate embroidery which once adorned the backs of the hands still survives in the form of the “points” with which even the simplest gloves are decorated. Gloves are, of course, a normal part of our ordinary dress and as such they vary with the changing fashions. One season, wrist length gloves may be fashionable. The next year we may all be wearing gloves halfway to our elbows. Wise glove makers will always be on the alert to detect new trends in fashion. A careful and regular survey of the goods in the glove department of a high-class store will do more than anything else to keep us up-to-date in all those details which mark off the gloves of one season from those of the next.

Materials

Modern glove makers, working in their own homes, will no doubt want to make gloves almost entirely by hand. Gloves made in factories are nearly always sewn on special machines, but the hand worker, who usually has only an ordinary sewing machine available, will find it much easier to sew seams by hand, although the points and wrist edges are often better if they are stitched by machine. The great advantage of making gloves by hand is that each pair can be made to fit the wearer for whom it is intended.

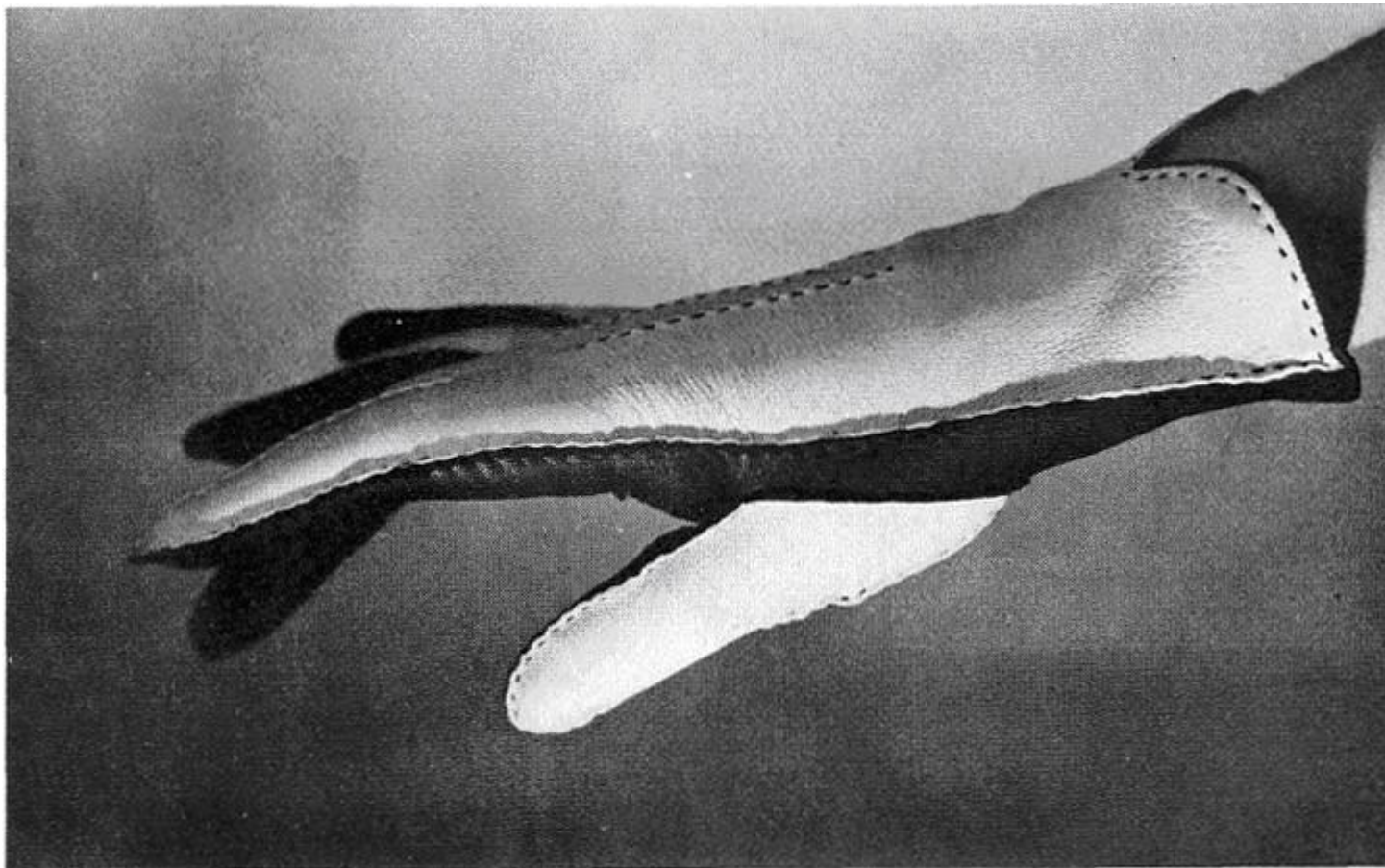
Leather gloves are, of course, the most hard-wearing of all. They keep their shape well and are warm and comfortable. When choosing leather for making gloves, remember that it must be supple, fairly thin and attractive to look at and to feel. Suede, Persian, kid, capeskin, real or imitation pigskin and chamois leather can all be used. Suede can be obtained in a variety of lovely colors, but most of the others come in black, gray, navy and varying shades of brown, ranging from deepest brown to light fawn. Chamois is a pale yellow and doeskin is a cream that is almost white. I have lately seen some most attractive dyed

chamois skins. I have not had an opportunity of making or wearing gloves made from these skins, so I cannot say whether the dyes are fast or not, but if the skin is of good quality they have almost the appearance of suede and should be worth considering. The following skins are suitable for making gloves: buckskin, cabretta, calfskin, capeskin, chamois, deerskin, doeskin, goatskin, mocha, kidskin, pigskin.

The average size of the skin works out at from four to eight square feet. If you are in any doubt as to whether the skin you want will be big enough for the gloves you want to make you can always take the pattern to the leather shop with you and measure it there. Examine each skin carefully and avoid any leather which feels brittle or which has a very shiny surface. Hold it up to the light and note whether there are many thin places. If there are, do not buy it, for although it may appear cheaper at the time, you will find it will prove to be wasteful in cutting out since you will have to avoid all the thin places. Look well at the edges of the leather and pull gently between the fingers. If the skin shows a tendency to tear and looks papery, do not buy it for it will be difficult to sew and will not wear well.

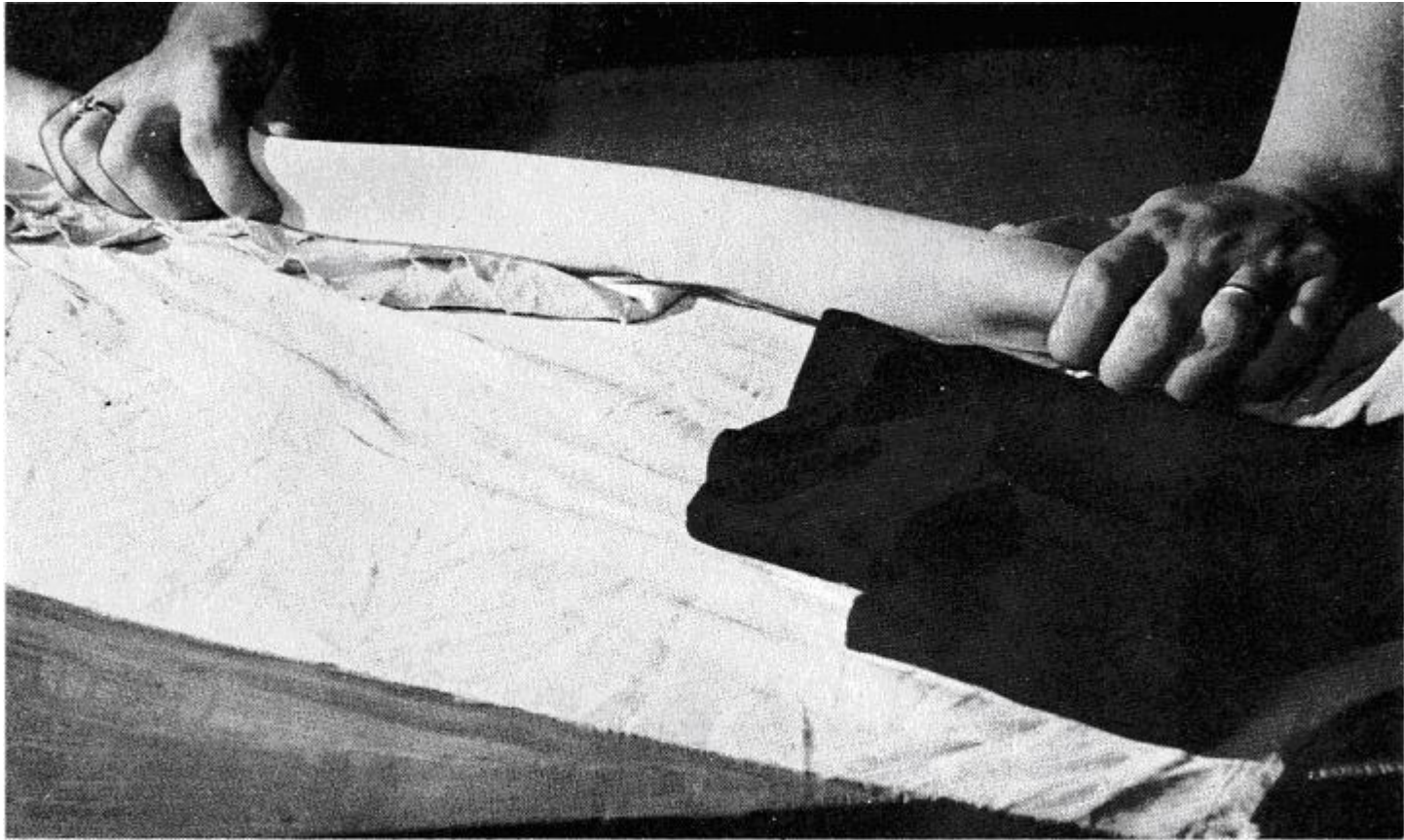
Suede is a lovely material for making formal gloves, but great care must be taken with the cutting out owing to the "pile" which must all go the same way. It is thus impossible to save any leather by turning the pattern upside down. Suede does not, I am afraid, wear quite so well as other types of leather as it is apt to go shiny. I have never found a really satisfactory method of cleaning, or having cleaned, gloves made from suede. One solution of the difficulty is to make the palms, which get the most wear, of leather and the backs of suede. Two colors can sometimes be combined very effectively.

Fur-backed gloves for winter wear are fashionable as well as extremely warm, and although they may take a little longer to make, they are well worth the extra trouble. Sheepskin and lamb's wool, too, can be used for gloves and the woolly side can be inside or outside the glove according to the taste of the wearer and the purpose for which the gloves are required.



Getting the Skin Ready

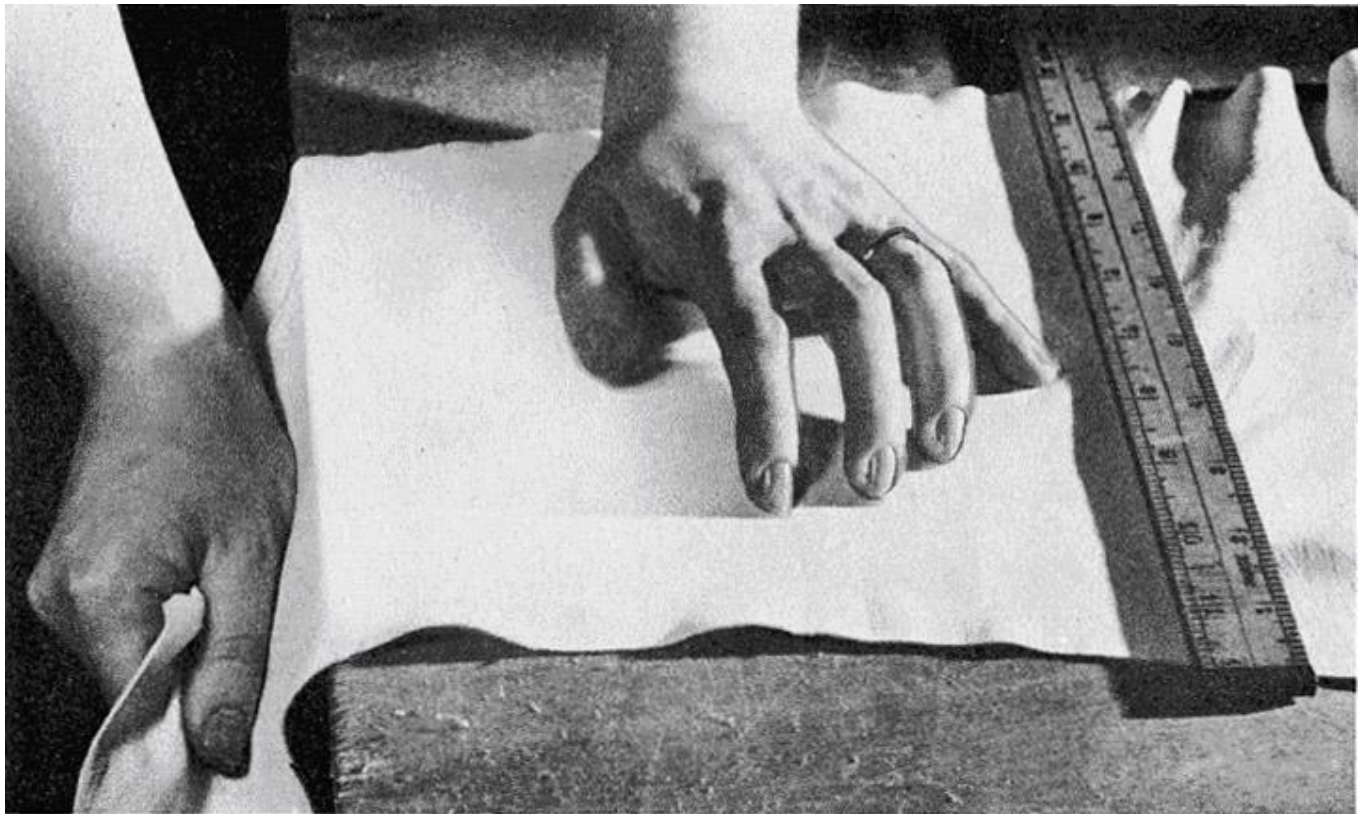
Roll the uncut skin tightly, lengthwise, wrongside out. Then place this firm roll of leather in a moist cloth (not drenched), and wind the cloth tightly around it. Do not permit the right side of the leather to get wet. Keep the skin in this manner from one to two hours.



ROLLING SKIN IN MOIST CLOTH

Stretching the Skin

Remove the skin from moist cloth after an hour or two and proceed to stretch it along the edge of a table. This process must be thorough and it takes a bit of strength. Letting more and more of the skin hang over the side of the table, pull it evenly, strongly, in the direction of the floor. Do this stretching several times but only lengthwise. Do not stretch skin along its width.



STRETCHING SKIN ON TABLE EDGE

Linings

Most people like linings for winter gloves and in this case it is better to choose a heavier type of leather than that used for unlined summer gloves. It used to be possible to buy special fleecy stockinette material for glove linings. Jersey or ordinary wool stockinette is the most suitable substitute as it will stretch with the movement of the hand. It is also possible to knit your own linings, using the glove pattern as a guide, and sewing it in place exactly as you would a lining made of material. One advantage of doing this is that you can make perfectly flat seams as you have no raw edges to worry about.

Thin dress woolens of fine quality can also be used, and to give the maximum amount of stretch should be cut on the bias. Silk jersey may appeal to people who dislike the feel of wool. Fur-lined gloves are delightful to wear and not particularly difficult to make. The chief point to remember is that the fur will take up a good deal of room in the glove and the leather part must be cut larger to allow for this. Lined gloves of any description must never be tight as they impede the circulation and so defeat their own object of keeping the wearer warm.

Other Materials

Equally suitable are fabrics of almost any texture: lace, felt, velvet, silk, jersey, matching cloth from a costume. Although leather is the best material of all for gloves, there are several others which can be pressed into service. Felt is a very good substitute for leather if a very good quality is used. It will not, of course, last as long as leather, but if you need an odd pair of gloves to complete a special outfit, felt is well worth considering. Felt mittens, attractively embroidered, are fun to make and wear. Gingham and similar materials left over from summer frocks can also be used for gloves and they have the advantage of being

cool and washable. They are, however, more difficult to handle than leather since they usually require neatening.

Long suede gloves in jewel-bright colors seem to be coming back into fashion for evening wear, but if you do not wish to go to the expense of this leather, you might like to try velvet, net or nylon as a substitute. Whatever the material or purpose for which it is used, however, the principles of glove making remain the same.

Tools

The tools required for glove making are extremely simple and easy to obtain. Ordinary sewing needles are used for the finer types of leather, while for the thicker and tougher kinds you can buy three-sided gloving needles in various sizes, costing about one penny each: glove needles, sizes No. 6, No. 7, and No. 8. Size No. 6 is heavy and is used for men's gloves and women's gloves made of heavier leather. Size No. 7 is used for nearly all kinds of leather and size No. 8 for the thin and finest skins, such as kidskin, doeskin, etc. Any thread can be used, also mercerized silk; any boil-fast embroidery yarn, if thin, taken in three threads. Other excellent thread: DMC No. 8 or No. 12, CB No. 8 or No. 12 or lustre No. 24 or No. 16. Certain parts of a glove can be sewn by machine and for this purpose No. 16 or No. 18 needle is recommended.

The thread you use will depend on the leather it is to sew. You can buy special gloving thread in several thicknesses and this is obtainable in most of the colors you are likely to need. Buttonhole twist can also be used. The chief thing to remember is that the thread, like the needle, must be thin enough to pass easily through the leather without dragging and must be strong enough to stand a good deal of wear without breaking. If you find that your needle tends to get bent, change it for a stronger one. Never use a bent needle, particularly when sewing in stab stitch, as it is impossible to put it at right angles to the leather.

In addition to your needles and thread you will need a pair of very sharp scissors. These should be small enough to get round corners easily, but large enough to give smooth, even cuts. If you intend to make any fur or sheepskin gloves you will also need a razor blade or a really sharp leather knife, as fur must *never* be cut with scissors. When cutting out gloves it is usual to lay the pattern on the leather and draw all round it with a sharp pencil. Use a soft drawing pencil on light colored leathers and a white or yellow crayon pencil on leathers on which the black lead will not show. These latter pencils wear down very quickly so they must be sharpened frequently as you go along.

A tool for inserting press studs is useful, but not essential. These tools cost little and the press studs can be obtained in various sizes and colors for a few cents per dozen. If you have no tool, the shop where you bought the leather will probably insert the studs for you. If the leather is thin, it is wise to place *a small extra piece* of leather under each half of the stud, in order to give added strength.

A few additional suggestions for sewing gloves. Wear a thimble whenever you can. It is important to hold your leather flat, especially after it has been cut, avoiding unnecessary stretching or bending.

Some gloves are decorated very attractively with thonging, and if you wish to use this method you will need a leather punch for making the holes. Punches are in good supply now and are not expensive. The thonging can be bought by the yard or you can, of course, cut your own. As the amount required is usually small this is not a big job. The strips should be cut carefully and as long as possible and should be about one-eighth inch wide.

This completes the list of tools and materials — not a very formidable one when one considers what can be done with them. Patterns come into a different category and are dealt with a little later on.

Terms Used in Glove Making

The terms used in glove making are simple and few. It is not essential for the worker to know what they are, but it may be of interest if I mention them. The main part of the glove, consisting of the back, the palm, the wrist and the backs and fronts of the fingers, is known as the *trank*. Then come the thumb and the long narrow strips of leather which join the backs and fronts of the fingers. These are called *fourchettes*, and they can be either single or double. Diagram 1 shows you three different kinds of fourchettes. Single ones are used when there are no triangular shaped bits at the base of the fingers. These tiny gussets are called *quirks* and they are sewn to the double fourchettes as shown in Diagram 2. Leathers which possess a good deal of stretch are usually made with fourchettes only, but if the leather is fairly thick and stiff the addition of quirks will give a little more room for the hand and make the gloves wear better. The *points* are the decorative lines on the back of the hand. Various methods and stitches can be used for these and they vary with the fashion of the day.

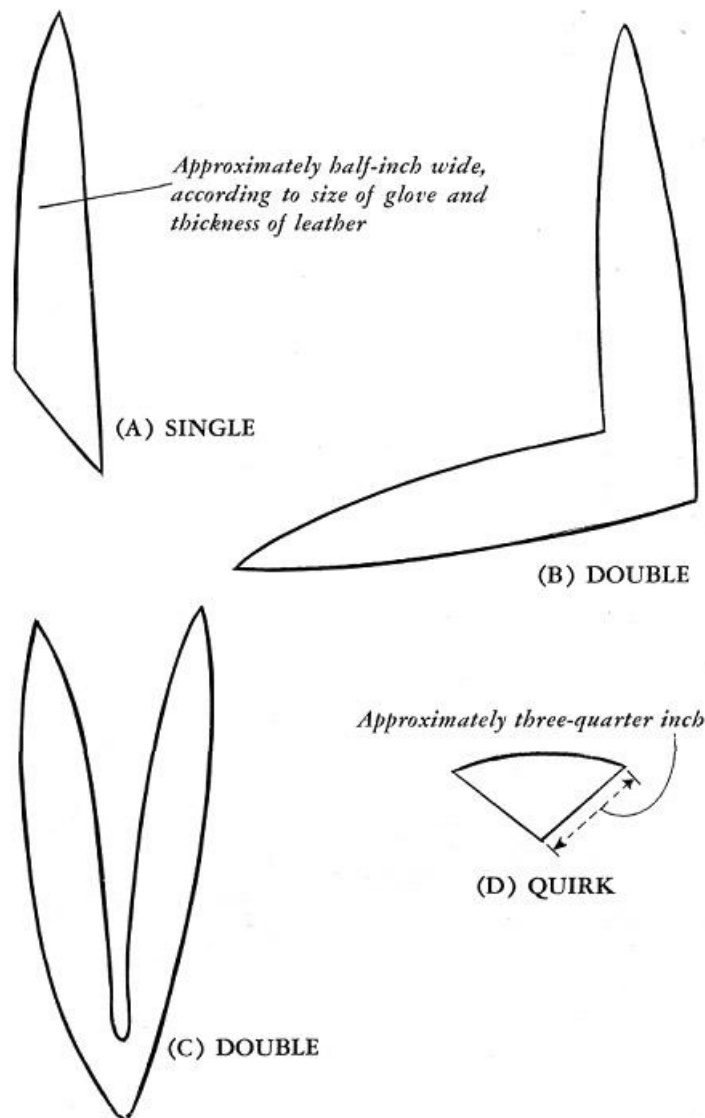


DIAGRAM 1. FOURCHETTES AND QUIRK

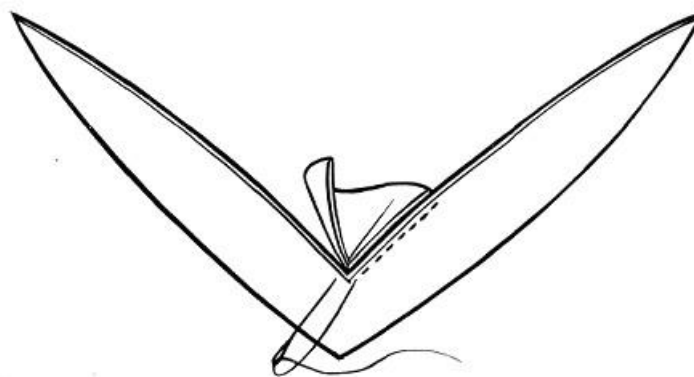


DIAGRAM 2
QUIRK BEING SEWN INTO PLACE WITH STAB STITCH

The *gauntlet* is the part of the glove below the wrist, and nowadays it is usually cut in one with the rest of the trunk. It probably dates back to the time when men wore coats of mail and gloves were worn under the steel gauntlet to prevent chafing. It serves to cover the end of the sleeve and enables the glove to be pulled

on easily. Nowadays the gauntlet has almost ceased to be an important part of the glove and in some cases it is almost non-existent. In former times it was often elaborately embroidered and extended halfway up the forearm. Some gloves, of course, have deep gauntlets, particularly those worn by cyclists and motorists. Where this type of gauntlet is used it must be stiffened in some way or it will flop over the wearer's hand. An interlining of buckram or tailor's canvas can be used and the edge of the glove may be strengthened with parallel rows of machine stitching. Another method is to insert one or two rows of thin string or cord between the rows of stitching.

Stitches

The way in which a glove is sewn together is important both from the point of view of wear and appearance. Leather gloves are nearly always sewn on the right side, unless the leather is very thin. Fur is an exception to this as the seams are usually oversewn on the wrong side. The final seams, however, are done on the right side.

A close examination of a hand-made glove will soon show that the seams appear to be worked in running stitch — that is, *small even* stitches that are the same size on each side of the seam. (Diagram 3.) Actually the stitch is called “stab stitch” and it is worked in a special way. The two pieces of leather are held together wrong sides facing and the edges absolutely level. The needle is then pushed through the two layers at right angles and the thread is pulled through. (Diagram 4.) The second half of the stitch is made by pushing the needle through from the back to the front, again with the needle at right angles. Thus each stitch is made in two movements. *Never* try to use ordinary running stitch, in which a small amount of the seam is taken up by the needle, as even thin leather is too thick for this to be successful.

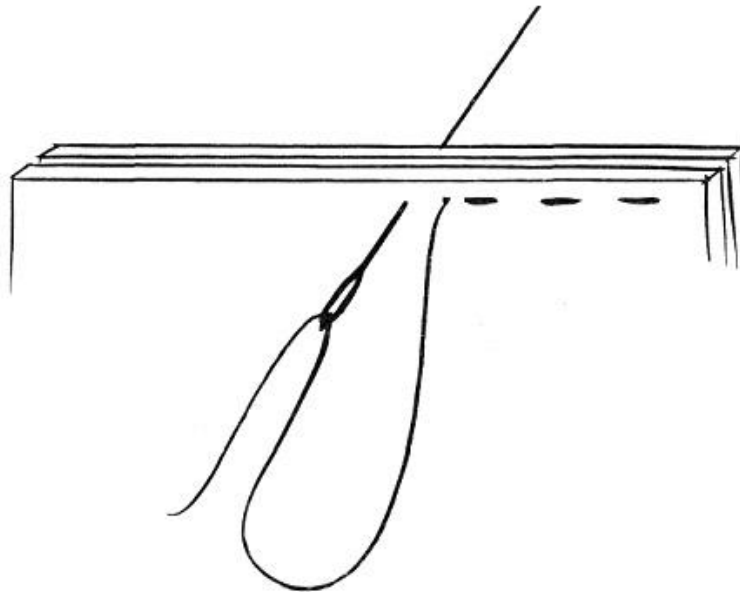


DIAGRAM 3
HOW TO WORK FIRST HALF OF "STAB STITCH"

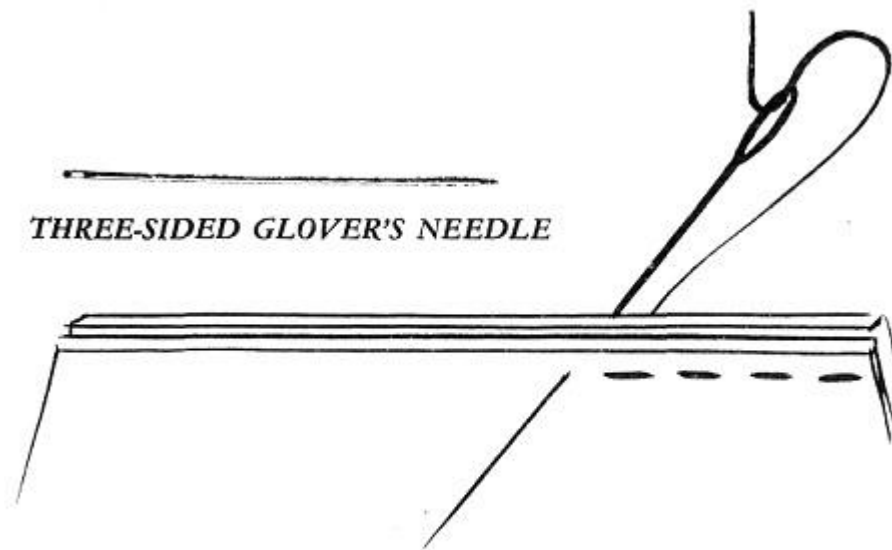


DIAGRAM 4
HOW TO WORK SECOND HALF OF "STAB STITCH"

If you want your gloves to be extra strong you can use double running. The first half of the stitch is worked in stab stitch in the ordinary way, then a second row of stab stitch is worked in the opposite direction filling in the spaces left on the previous row. (Diagram 5.) This stitch is extremely strong and if well done looks like machine stitching. The needle and thread used must both be fairly fine as the needle goes through each hole in the leather twice.

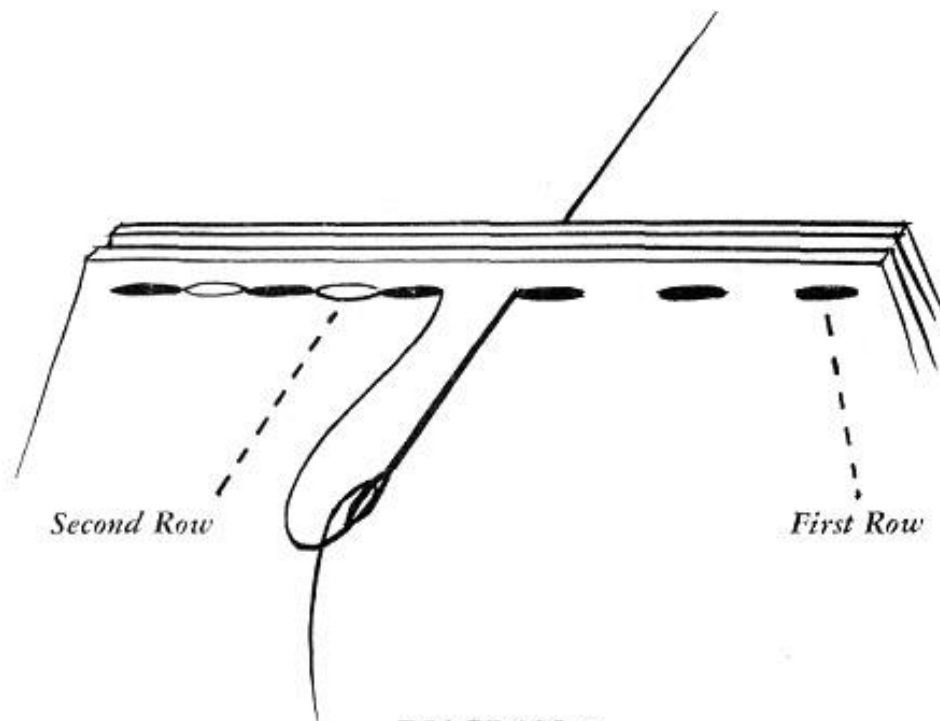
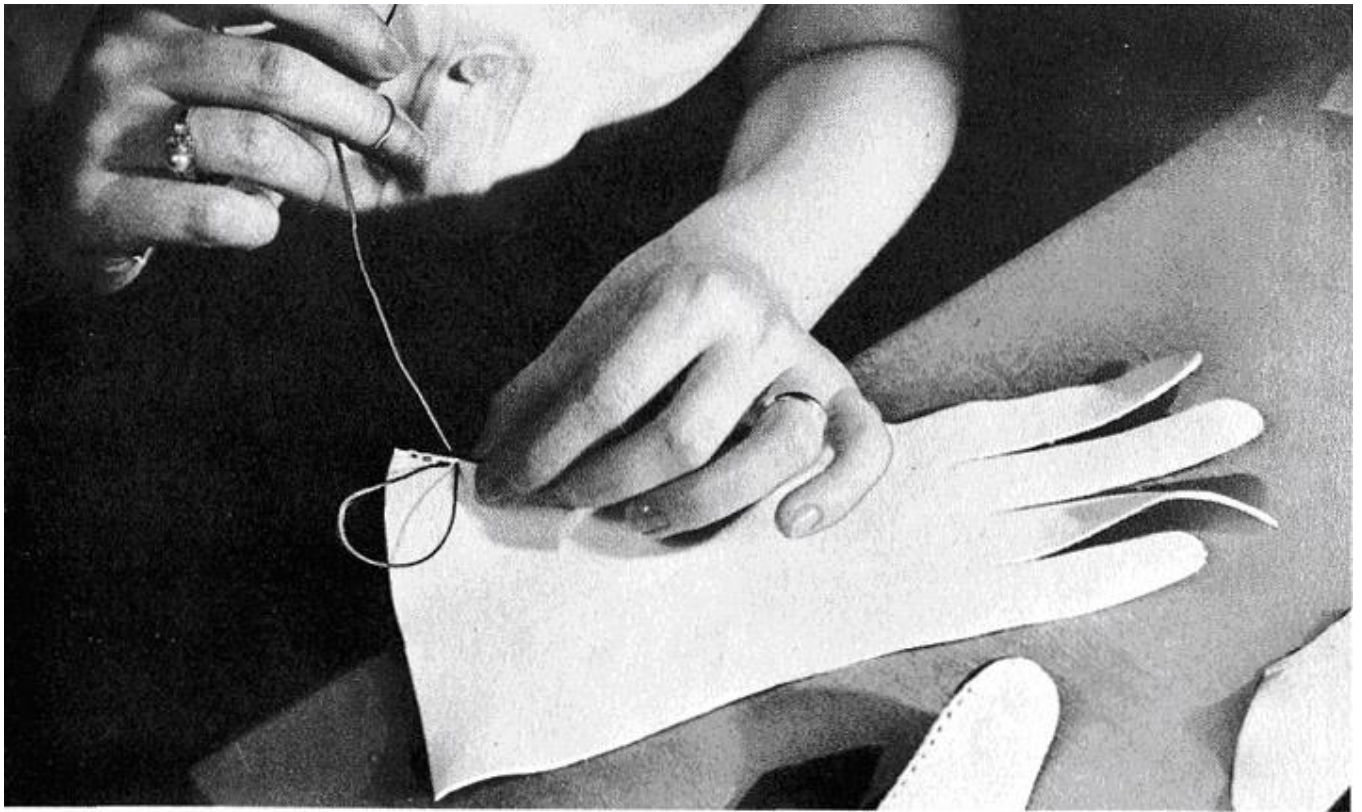


DIAGRAM 5



THE "STAB STITCH"

Oversewing can be used either on the right or wrong side. Where extra strength is required a second row can be worked in the opposite direction to form a row of crosses. This stitch, if evenly worked, is very decorative and looks well if a contrasting color is used. (Diagram 6.)

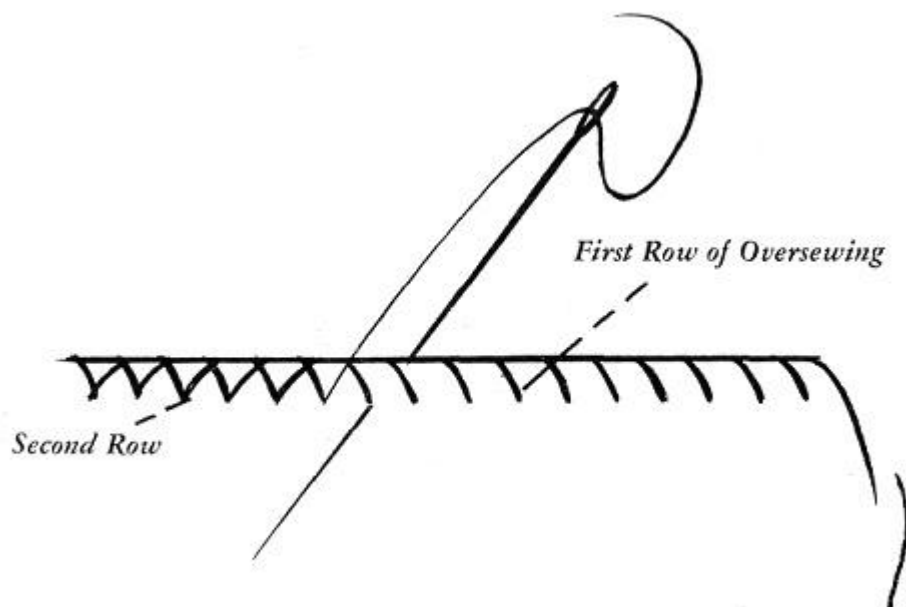
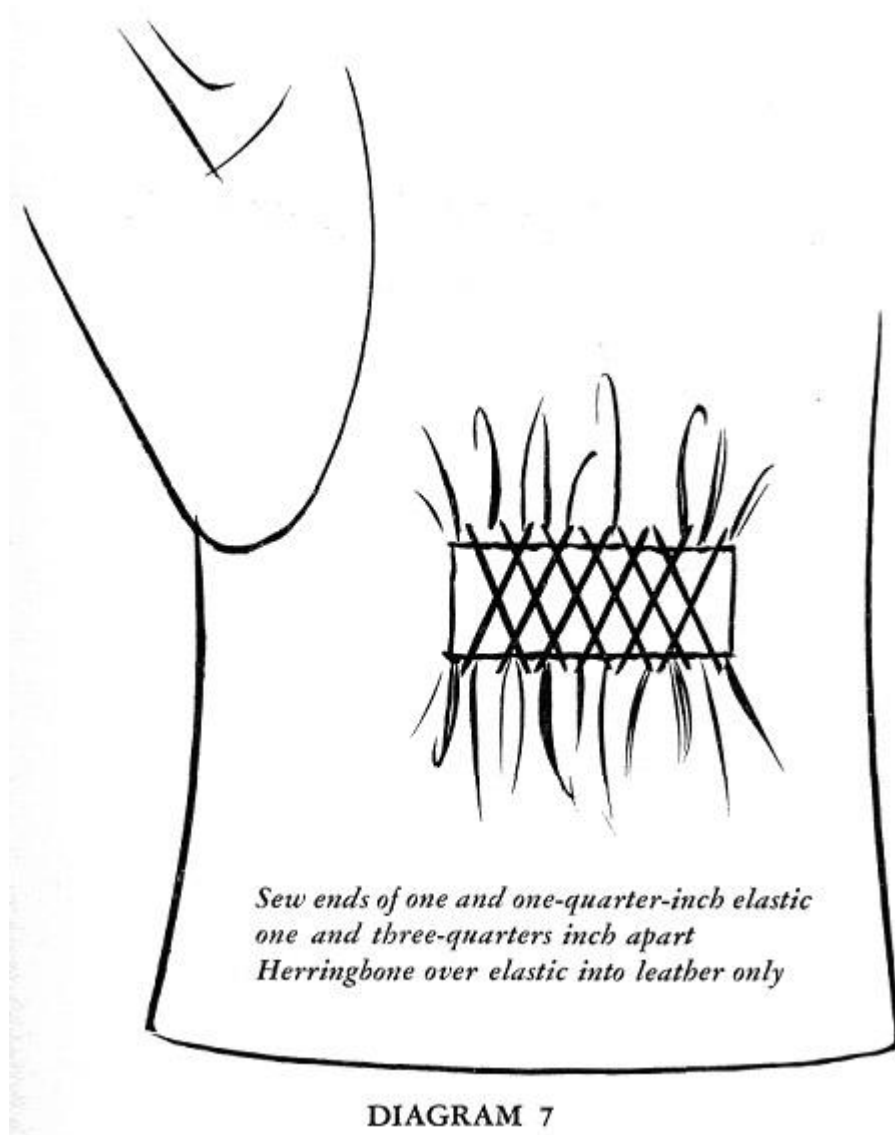


DIAGRAM 6. TUCK WORKED IN DOUBLE OVERSEWING

Backstitching can be used for seams which are worked on the wrong side. Machine stitching can be used to good effect round the wrist edge of a glove as it is not only quicker than hand sewing, it helps to flatten

and stiffen the edge. Decorative stitching can be used for the points. They can be worked in stab stitch, double oversewing (cross stitch) or herringbone stitch. When making embroidered gloves any of the well-known embroidery stitches may be used. Herringbone stitch may also be used for sewing down the hem or binding on the wrist edge, and for sewing in a strip of elastic where it is needed to give a good fit at the wrist. The method for putting in this elastic is shown in Diagram 7. You will notice that the stitches go through the material only and not through the elastic which is sewn down at each end. If the stitch is worked evenly, the glove shows an attractive pleated effect on the right side.



One drawback to sewing gloves by hand is that it is almost impossible to pin or baste the leather, as the holes made cannot be removed and not only spoil the appearance of the glove, but weaken the leather. For this reason you must be prepared to place and sew your seams at the same time. It means that you have to work rather slowly, although experience soon shows you the best way to go about it. Should you, for any reason, find it imperative to hold any particular seam in place as you work, use ordinary wire paper clips. Be very careful not to allow the points of the wire to scratch the surface of the leather.

Decorative Details

The decorative lines or “points” which adorn the back of the glove have already been mentioned. These points often form a definite part of the design and add much to the finished appearance of the glove. They are made while the trunk is still flat, usually after the thumb has been put in. Most patterns give some indication as to where the points should begin and end.

The classic method, used on plain gloves of the tailored type, particularly those worn by men, is to put in three small tucks. These are worked either in stab stitch or by machine. The tucks should start just under the base of the fingers and end a little above the wrist. The two outer ones usually slope in a little towards the bottom.



PUTTING IN POINTS

In order to avoid the crooked seam lines so often seen in these three decorative tucks, you should slant the middle line toward the little finger, rather than parallel to the straight folding line of the glove. The correct way of putting on the tucks is shown in Diagram 8A. Another attractive method is to put two curved tucks, starting about one-half inch apart, near the fingers and curving outwards to finish at the side seam on the outer edge and just below the thumb on the inner edge. (Diagram 8.) A third tuck is sometimes placed between the other two.

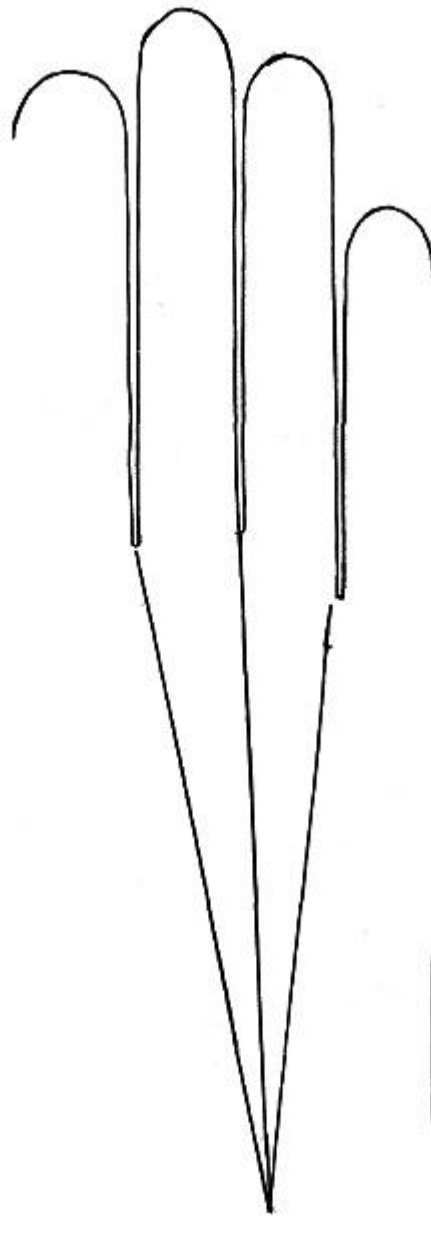


DIAGRAM 8A. GUIDE LINES FOR POINTS

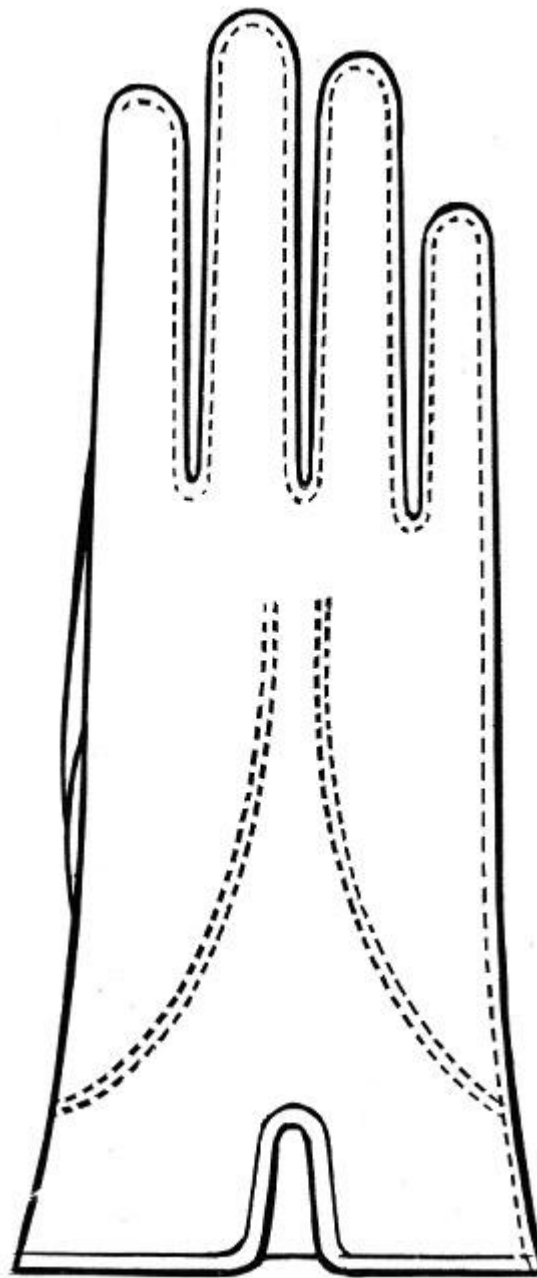


DIAGRAM 8. MAKING POINTS

Many factory-made gloves have the three lines worked in machine stitch. Each line consists of three rows of stitching about one-sixteenth inch apart. The stitches must be very small and the lines must be perfectly straight. A row of crossed oversewing also looks well and is a little more definite than stab stitch tucks, especially if a contrasting thread is used.

Another method is to decorate the back of the hand with a simple design executed in thonging. Plastic thonging can be used if liked, but personally I find this a little stiff for glove making and prefer to use strips one-eighth inch wide, cut from the leather I am using for the gloves. This is purely a matter of taste and there are times when the plastic thonging with its shiny surface presents an effective contrast. Four methods of using thonging are shown in Diagrams 9, 10, 11, and 12. The first three are worked by punching two parallel rows of holes five-eighths inch away from each other each way. For the first two the number of holes may be odd or even, but for the design shown in Diagram 11 the number of holes must be divisible by four. You will notice that if you want to work Diagram 10 you must omit the top hole

on one row and the bottom hole on the other, according to which hand the glove is intended for. For the fourth design you will need three rows of holes arranged as shown in the diagram.

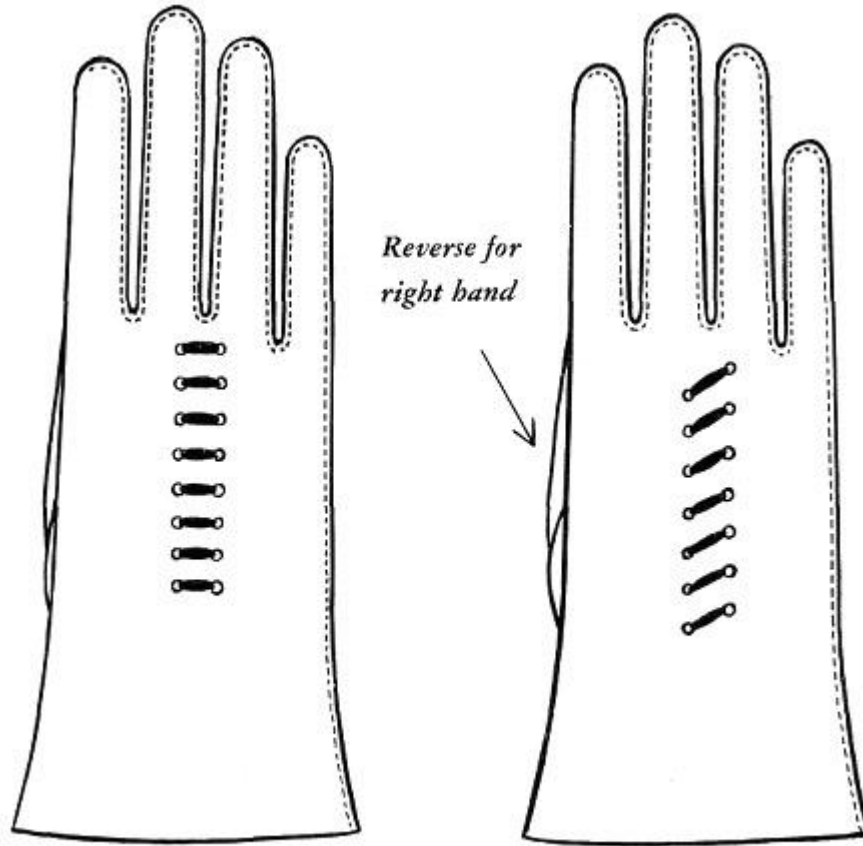


DIAGRAM 9

DIAGRAM 10

TWO KINDS OF POINTS

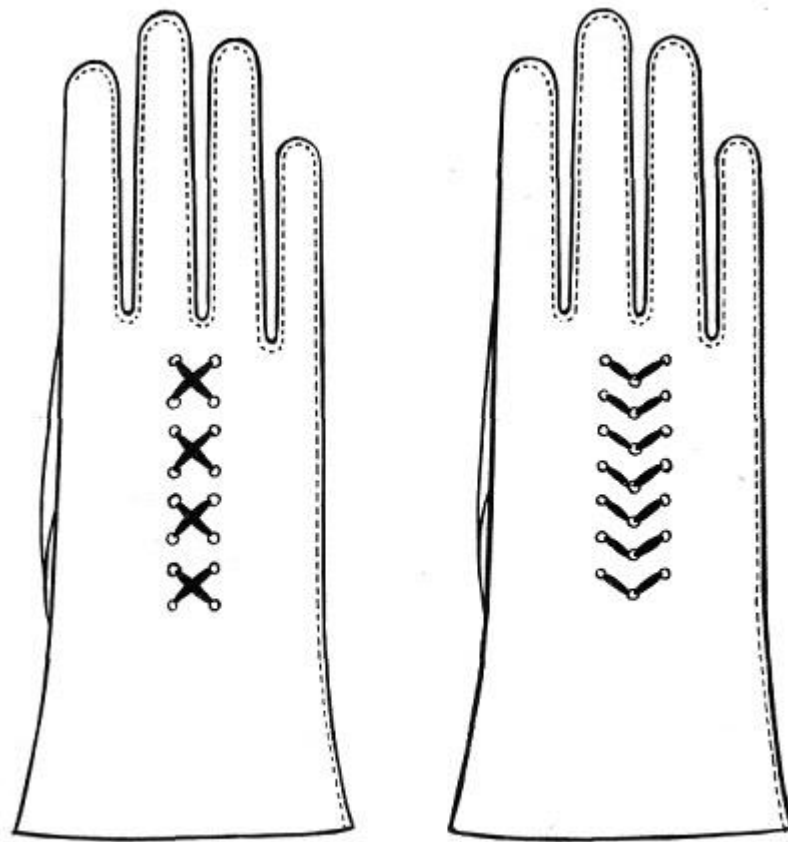


DIAGRAM 11

DIAGRAM 12

TWO MORE KINDS OF POINTS

When making felt gloves the points may be worked in chain stitch or stem stitch, using either a matching or contrasting color. Evening gloves look well if the lines are worked with beads or sequins. A simple scroll design also looks well, and when the gloves are elbow length this design may be carried right up the back of the glove.

Glove Design

At first most glove makers will be content in fashioning simple, well-fitting gloves. Confidence will follow the completion of two or three pairs, and then it might be well to begin to introduce some creative designs in the next glove projects. For example, you might try to make a pair of gloves from two different colors of leather. See [frontispiece](#) for a pair in black and white. Another variation is to use threads of contrasting color to get a pleasing effect.

It is possible to combine fabric and leather (women); knitting and leather (men). An all-fabric glove for women can be enlivened by inserting fourchettes and thumbs of leather. An excellent means of improving the design of a glove is to introduce fancy stitches such as blanket stitch, embroidery stitch, stem stitch, chain stitch; or fagoting, scalloping, etc. The Western glove is often decorated with braiding, lacing, tooling. In making up your designs it may be well to match gloves with handbags, shoes, costumes. Some glove makers add an extra flourish by adapting bows, or fringes, tassels, braids, beads and covered buttons.

Wrist Edges

The finishing of the wrist edge is an important part of glove making. Sheepskin gloves may be left as they are and, if the wool is used inside, the edge may be turned up to form a cuff. Alternatively the edge may be bound with a strip of leather.

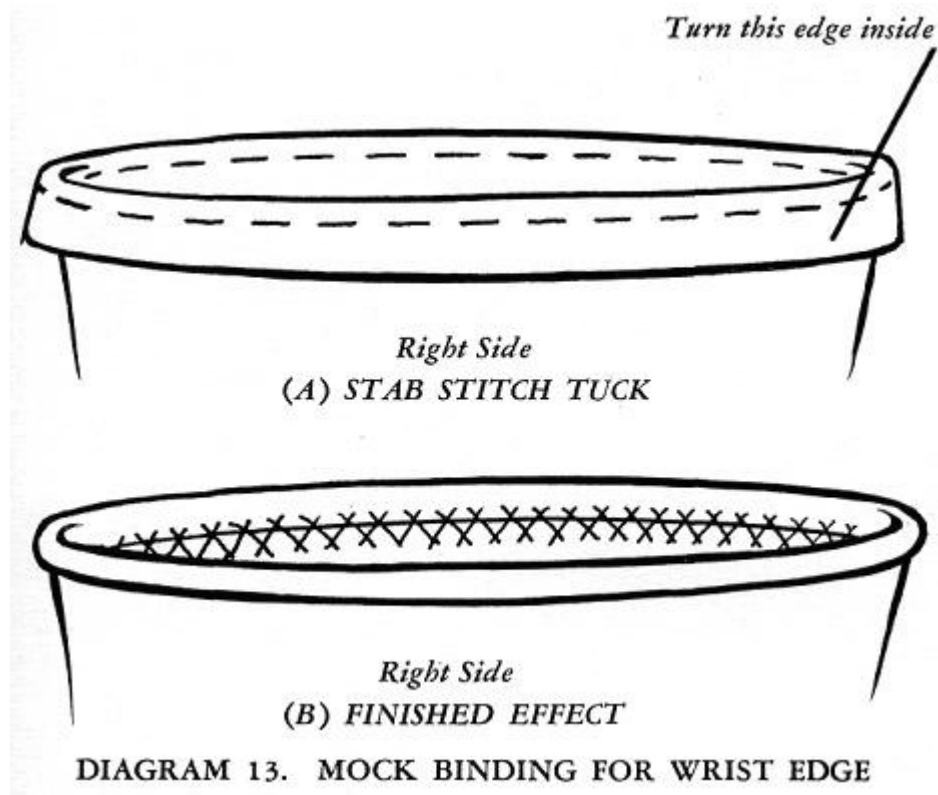
Gloves made from ordinary leather, chamois or suede may also have the wrist edge left as it is. Women's leather gloves are usually left without binding except for sport gloves. As a rule, men's gloves have a binding.



BINDING WRIST EDGE

The simplest method of finishing a wrist edge is to turn up a single hem one-quarter inch deep on the wrong side and herringbone or machine it in place. The former method does not show on the right side. Another method is to turn up a single hem one-half inch wide or a little wider if the leather is thick, on to the right side. Stab stitch or machine stitch all round one-eighth inch below the folded edge. Turn the raw edge over on to the wrong side and hem down. (Diagram 13.) The effect of this is almost the same as binding with a strip of leather, which is worked as follows: Cut a strip of leather about one-half inch wide; the exact width depends on the thickness of the leather, thicker leather needing a wider strip than a thinner variety. The length of the strip should be a little more than the distance round the wrist, including any slits or openings there, may be. Avoid seams in this strip as they make the work clumsy. Start the binding at the side seam and sew the strip either by hand or machine to the right side of the glove. When you reach the end, cut off the ends of the strip so that they just meet and oversew them very firmly. Press this seam as flat as possible and turn the binding over to the wrong side. Hem it, down in the usual way. If machine stitching is used work it on the right side and place it as close to the first seam as possible. A second row

of stitching on the extreme edge is sometimes an improvement. Remember that when stitching leather the needle should be a fairly fine one.



Some chamois gloves are not bound, but are cut into, scallops with a hole or small design in holes in each scallop. This method looks attractive when the gloves are new, but does not wear very well as the holes are apt to get pulled out of shape.



FINISHING WRIST EDGE

Another quite attractive method is to cut a strip of contrasting leather one-half inch wide into scallops. Turn in the wrist edge of the glove and top stitch it over the narrow strip so that the scalloped edge projects below the hem. (Diagram 14.)



DIAGRAM 14. SCALLOPED TRIMMING FOR WRIST EDGE

At one time a fringed trimming was fashionable and it is well to know how to do this in case the fashion comes back. It is quite simple. Cut a strip of leather about one inch wide and as long as the gauntlet of the glove. Fringe one edge and sew into the side seam when the glove is being put together. A fringed edge, attached in the same way as the scalloped edge, can also be used, but is apt to become untidy in wear. Fur-backed gloves are usually finished with a narrow binding as described above.

When making gloves for men it is often necessary to insert a press stud as a fastening. When making lined gloves insert the lower half in the leather before the lining is sewn down by the wrist hem, so that the lining will cover the stud. The second half can be put in when the glove is finished. When making unlined gloves it is a good idea to cover the back of the stud with a small circle of leather neatly herringboned in place.

Inserting press studs is one of those simple things that everyone knows how to do — until they come to do it! I have, therefore, included instructions for performing this tricky little operation in Diagram 15. You will need a leather punch for making the holes through which the knobs of each half of the stud will go.

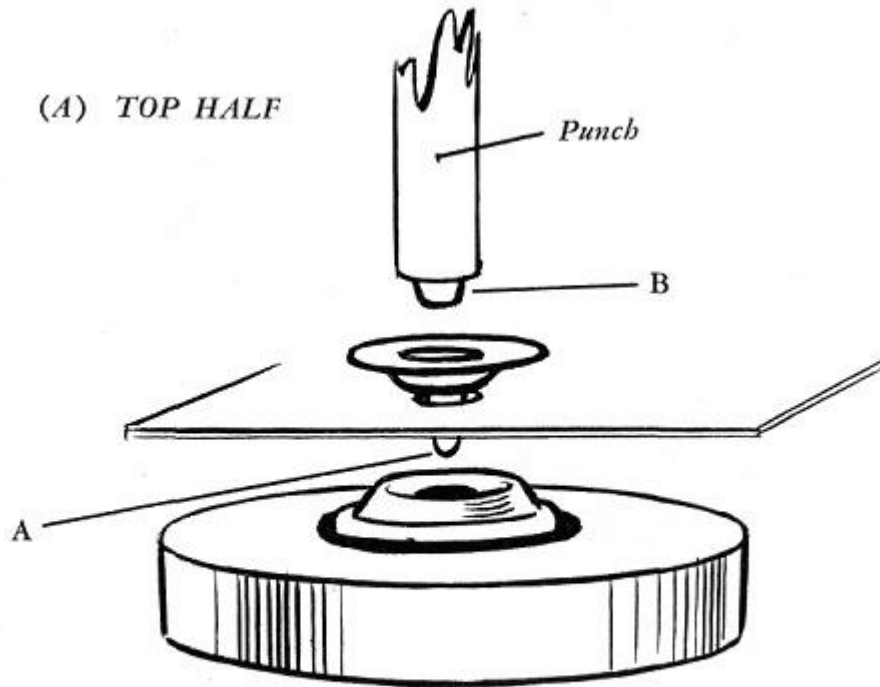


DIAGRAM 15 (A). INSERTING A PRESS STUD

Lay top half of fastener in hollow of metal plate. Push "A" through hole in leather. Place "B" in hole above "A" and tap smartly with small hammer.

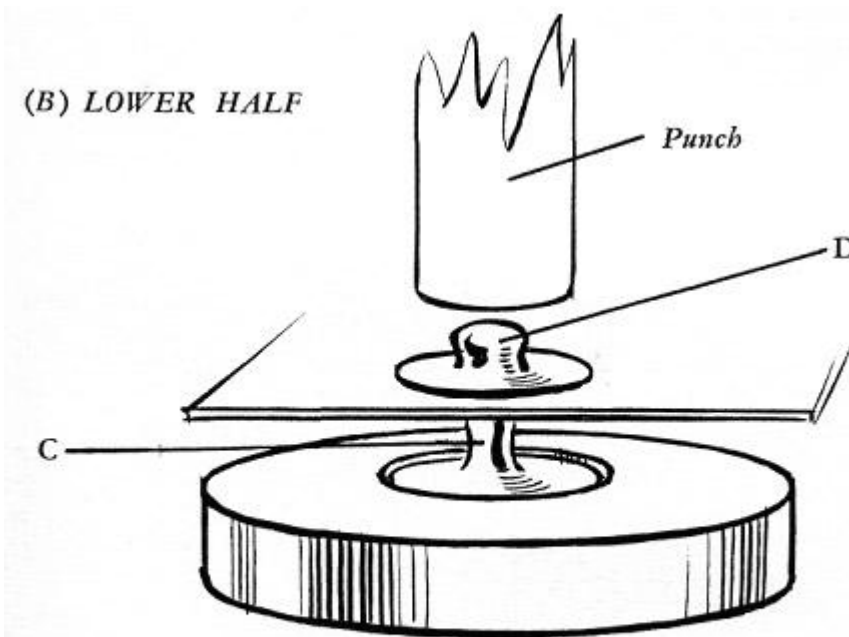


DIAGRAM 15 (B). INSERTING A PRESS STUD

Lay flat half of stud on flat side of metal plate, pushing "C" through hole in leather. Fit hollow part "D" over tip of "C" with hollow in punch on top. Hit punch smartly with hammer.

Since press studs became so easy to obtain, buttons and buttonholes have not been used so much in glove making, although there are still people who prefer them. To make a buttonhole as shown in Diagram 16, you will need a small piece of leather about one by one and one-half inches. Decide where the buttonhole is to be and lay your strip of leather face down on the right side over this spot. Put two rows of backstitch or machine stitching three-sixteenths of an inch apart across the middle, joining the ends to form a rectangle. (Diagram 16.) Slit the two layers of leather between the stitching and carefully turn the small piece through the hole. Flatten it as much as you can and herringbone neatly all round. A row of machine stitching close to the edge of the buttonhole will help to make it flatter still. Such buttonholes are, of course, only suitable for very thin leather such as suede. (Diagram 17.)

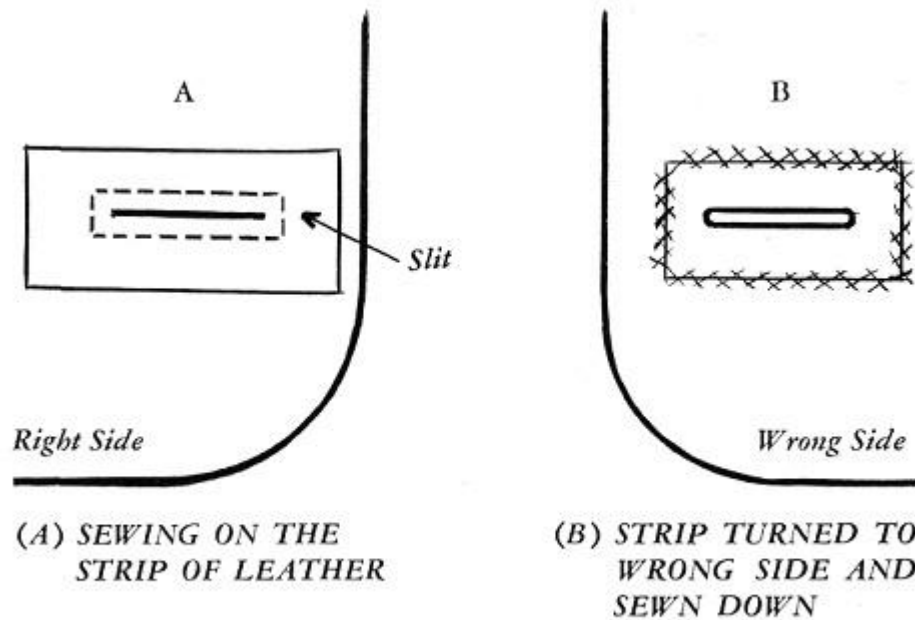


DIAGRAM 16

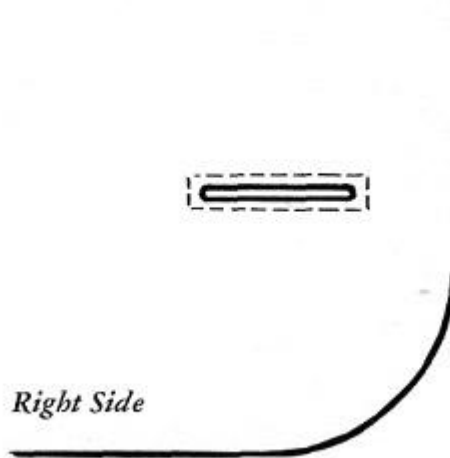


DIAGRAM 17. THE FINISHED BUTTONHOLE

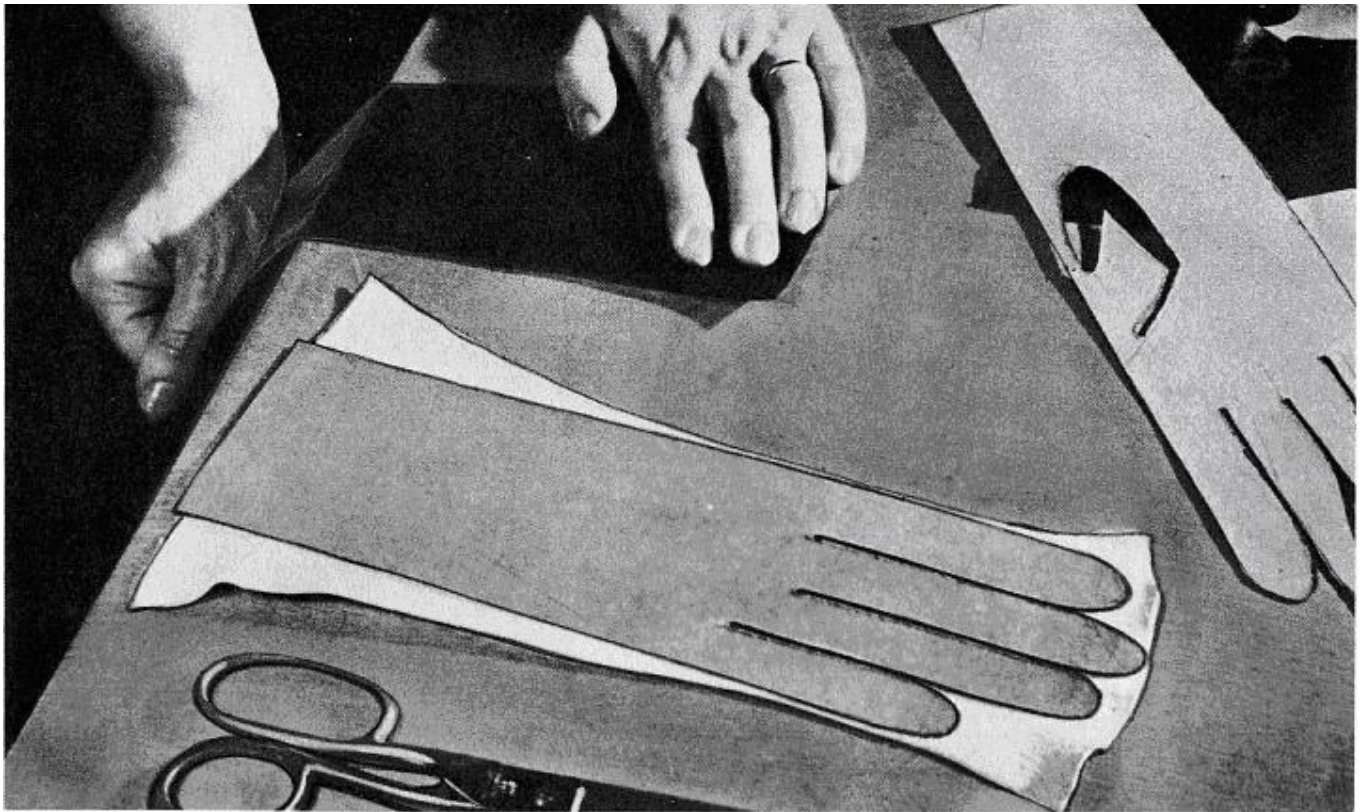
When making gloves from dress materials or net, the loops for buttons may be worked in blanket stitch or with a crochet hook. Buttonholes in felt can be worked with buttonhole twist in the usual way. When sewing on buttons always make a shank. If the leather is thin and likely to pull away in wear, it is a good plan to sew a strip of strong tape under the buttons so that this will take the strain instead of the leather.

HOW TO MAKE GLOVES ~ SECTION 2

1950—How to Make Gloves
by Eunice Close

Patterns

The most essential piece of equipment the glove maker needs is a really reliable pattern — or, rather, a series of patterns covering various sizes of gloves. The best patterns are made from thin card about the thickness of a postcard, and this is a great help when you are marking out your pattern. Some makers of glove patterns use the flimsy paper you find in ordinary dressmakers' patterns and these are not so good, as you will soon find when you begin to draw round them. To remedy this you should paste the paper pattern to a piece of thin card or stiff drawing paper. Leave under a weight for at least twenty-four hours and when dry cut out the pattern very carefully. In this way you retain any necessary directions which may be printed on the pattern and reduce the risk of making an error, as you might if you traced off the pattern on to your card.



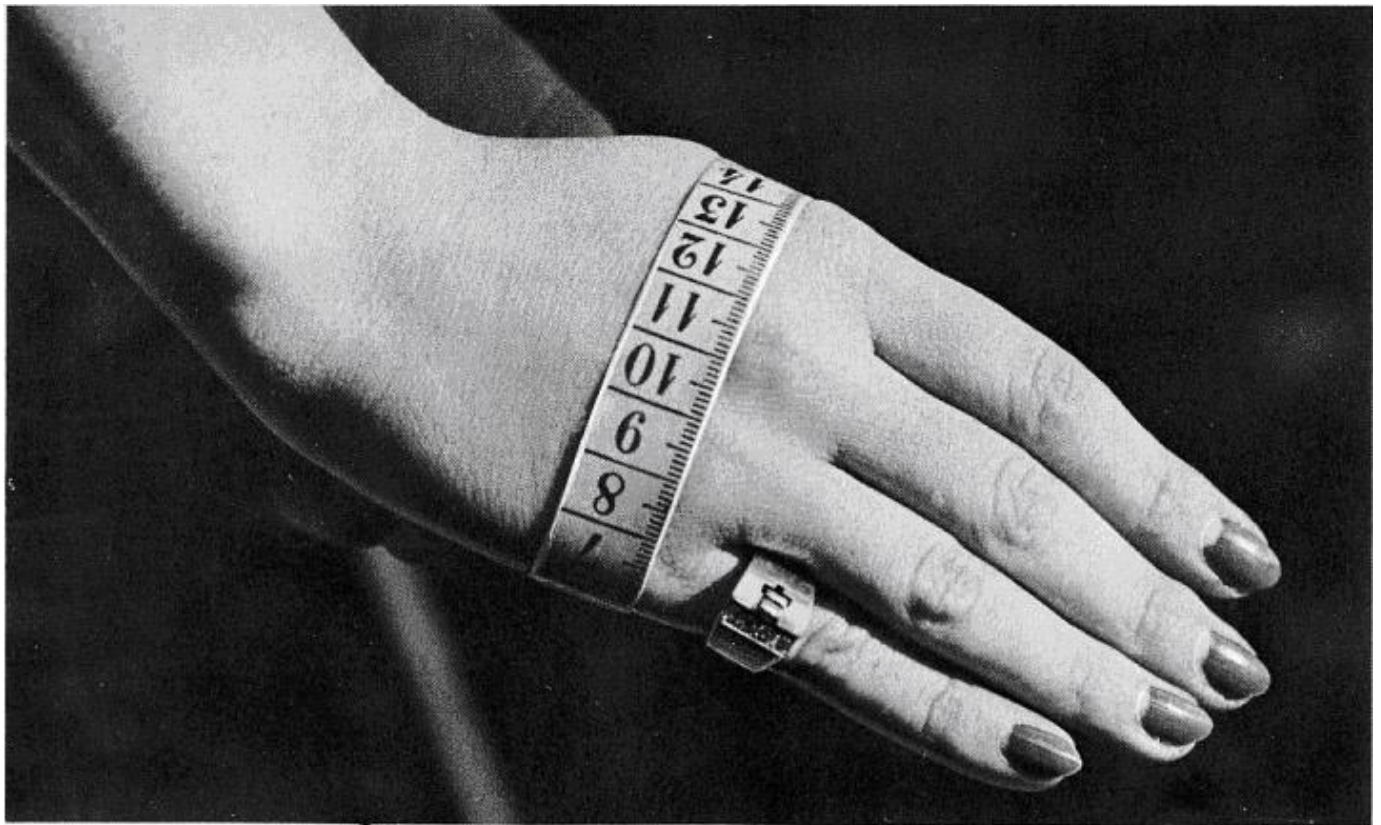
CARDBOARD GLOVE PATTERNS

Bought patterns usually consist of the pattern for the trunk, one thumb and one fourchette. If quirks are included the pattern will be given for this. It is a wise precaution to fasten the smaller pieces to the trunk with a paper clip as they are very easily mislaid. The pattern will, of course, have to be reversed for the second hand. Should you happen to be short of material, it is a good plan to cut out the trunk again in paper, marking it carefully so that you know which hand it is for. You can then lay both trunks on your material, moving them about so that you can use your leather to the best advantage.

Butterick, Vogue and other popular pattern firms make glove patterns that sell for about thirty-five cents and are usually stocked by department stores. Patterns can usually be obtained in sizes ranging from 6 to 7 1/2 for women, 8 to 9 for men and 1 to 6 for children, and they usually have the size printed clearly on the outside of the envelope.

If you are intending to make gloves of various kinds and sizes it is advisable to build up a collection of simple styles in various sizes rather than a bigger selection of styles in only one or two sizes. It is much easier to adapt the style of a pattern than to alter the size, although this can be done to a limited extent. The size of a glove is usually based on the measurement around the widest part of the hand.

Since you are going to be a custom glove maker, tailoring to your own hand, why not fit each hand correctly in case the right is larger than the left, as often happens? Your tape may show a quarter size variation for the larger hand. Take this difference into consideration when checking your patterns



MEASURING HAND FOR GLOVE SIZE

Adapting a pattern

People's hands vary very much both as to size and shape. Two people may both take size 6 1/2 in gloves, but whereas one may have long, thin fingers, the other may have short, stumpy ones. In addition to this there is a wide variation of the proportions between one finger and another. It is obviously impossible for the manufacturers of glove patterns to cater to all these differences. However, you will find that as long as a pattern is wide enough *over the knuckles*, you can make as many alterations as you like in the length.

When you buy a pattern open it out and lay your hand flat on it. Notice whether your fingers are longer or shorter than the pattern. If they are shorter, take a pencil and draw round the top of each finger, allowing

for a seam of one-sixteenth of an inch. Trim off the pattern along your pencil lines. Should your fingers be longer than those of the pattern, gum a strip of paper to each finger, draw round your own fingers as before and trim off to the correct size.

One measurement which may need a little adjustment is the length of the slits between the fingers. Notice if each slit comes right to the bottom of the appropriate finger. If it does not, make it a little longer. If it is too long, put a pencil mark at the proper place and when you are marking out your glove remember to end the slit at this mark.

A professional glove maker of my acquaintance always asks her clients to place their hands on a piece of paper so that she can draw round them. In this way she has built up a file of individual fittings, as well as a reputation for making gloves that really fit. I may add that she is always so busy that winter gloves have to be ordered in the summer and vice-versa.

If you have to make gloves for a very short hand, cut the fingers and thumb shorter as described above and then move the thumb hole up towards the fingers for a distance of from one-quarter to one-half inch as required. Should you want to use a pattern for unlined gloves to make a pair of lined ones, you must make it larger to allow for the extra thickness inside. Allow extra width up to one-quarter inch on each side of the trunk, tapering off to nothing when you get to the fingers. Allow extra width on each fourchette and all round the thumb. The hole where the thumb will go must be enlarged a little so that the thumb will fit smoothly.

There are several ways in which you can alter the style of a glove provided the pattern is a fairly simple one to begin with. A simple pull-on style can be adapted to make a pair of gauntlet gloves by lengthening the trunk by two or three inches and by sloping it outwards at the wrist edge. A triangular gusset can be inserted in the side seam to give extra width but should not extend beyond the wrist. A long, narrow gusset is more graceful than a short, wide one. Two or three small gussets in a contrasting color or texture are smart and make a good way of using up odd bits.

If you wish to use an ordinary glove pattern for making a pair of mittens simply leave out the slits for the fingers and cut the top edge into a smooth continuous curve.

When buying patterns consider the thickness of the leather you intend to use. A thick skin will give you a smaller glove than if you use the same pattern for a thinner skin. If you get a pattern that is suitable for a stretchable skin such as chamois you will find that it will be smaller than one labeled with the same size intended for a thicker and stiffer skin. For this reason it is wise to notice what sort of leather is suggested on the pattern before you buy it.

Making a Basic Pattern

Some workers prefer to work from a basic pattern which they adapt and alter as the need arises. This is quite a good idea once you have acquired sufficient experience to judge what alterations are required. If you are a beginner, however, it is wise to use bought patterns at first, since a great deal can be learned from them.

To make a basic pattern to fit your own measurements, take a piece of drawing paper and lay your left hand flat on it with the fingers closed. Draw all round the hand as far as the wrist on each side. Open each pair of fingers in turn and put a dot at the base of each. Join these dots to the top of the fingers with a

ruler, making sure that all your lines are *perfectly parallel*. Lengthen the pattern by about two inches, sloping it out slightly on the edge opposite to the thumb. (Diagram 18.)

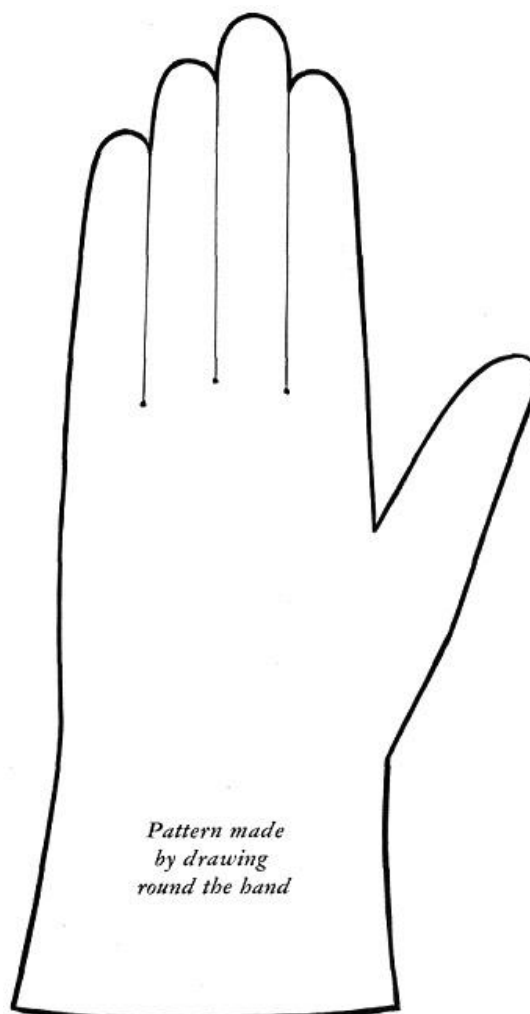


DIAGRAM 18

Fold the paper in half along the edge of the index finger and cut out in the double paper, making the slits between the fingers on the front of the hand one-quarter inch shorter than the corresponding slits on the back. (Diagram 19.) Cut out the hole for the thumb as shown in Diagram 20 and letter it carefully. Using the pattern as a guide to the length of the thumb, cut out as shown in Diagram 21. Cut the slit as shown and letter the thumb. Make sure that the line AB on the thumb is exactly the same length as the line AB on the trunk and that the lines BC on each section are the same length.

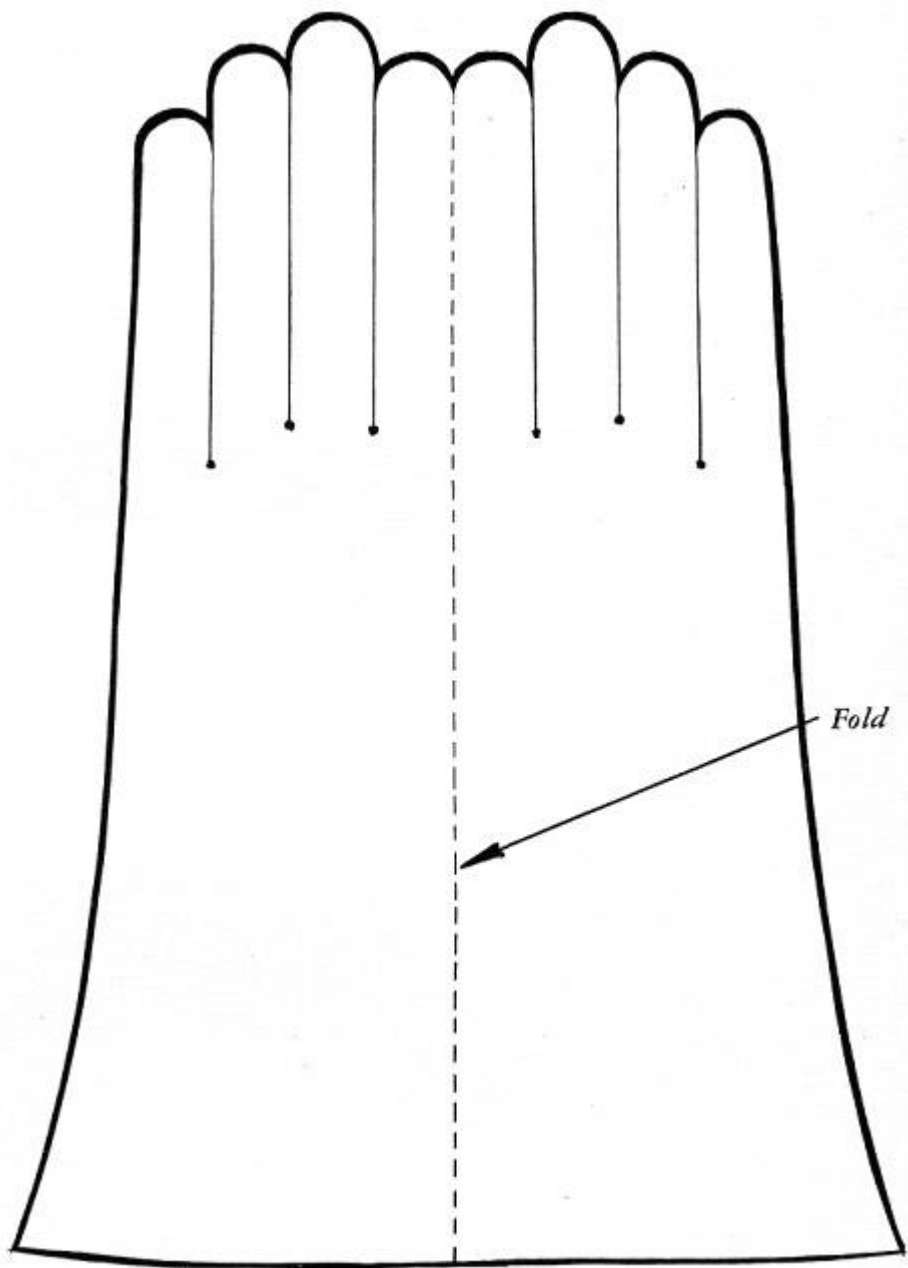


DIAGRAM 19. PATTERN FOR TRANK

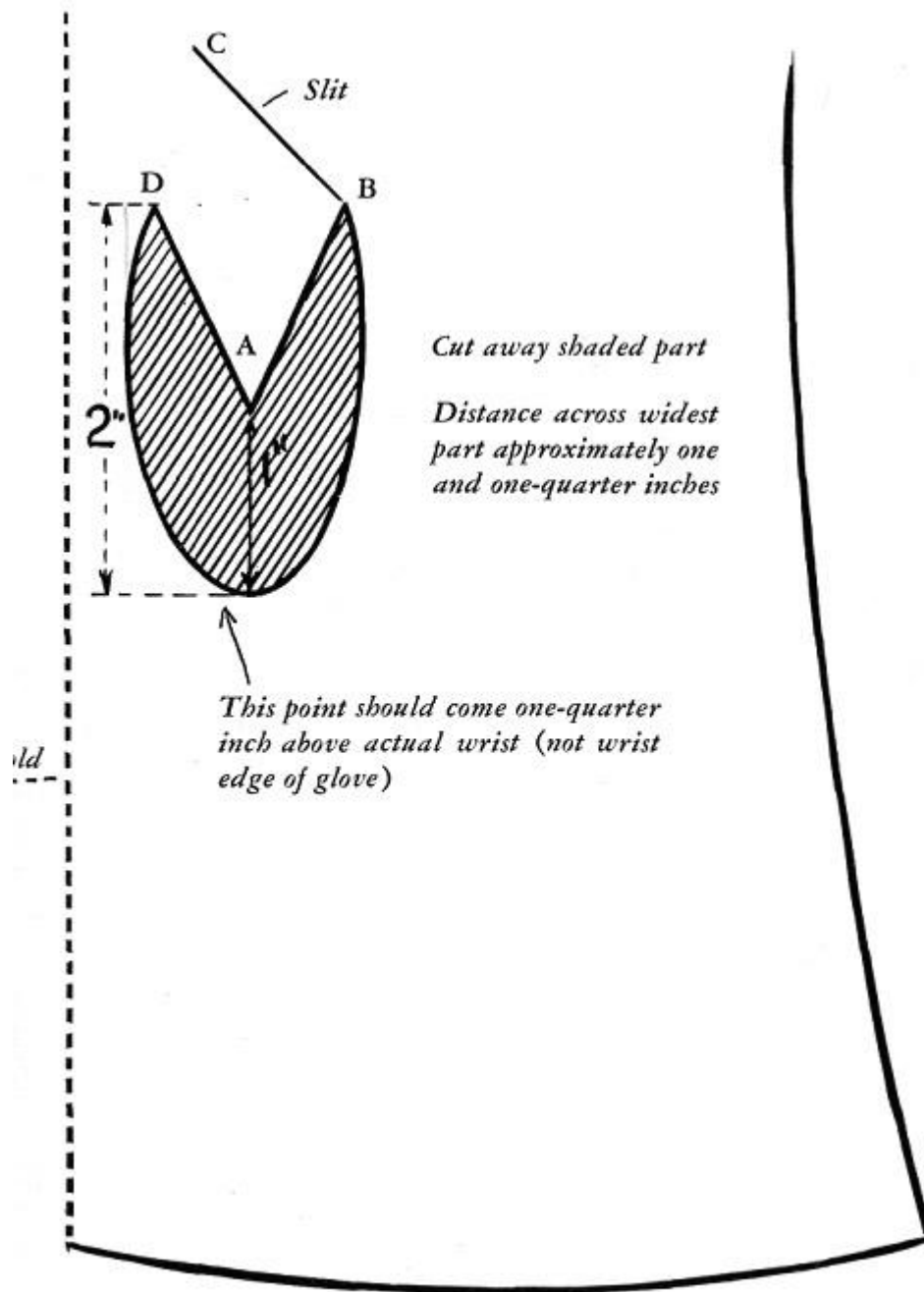


DIAGRAM 20. THUMB HOLE

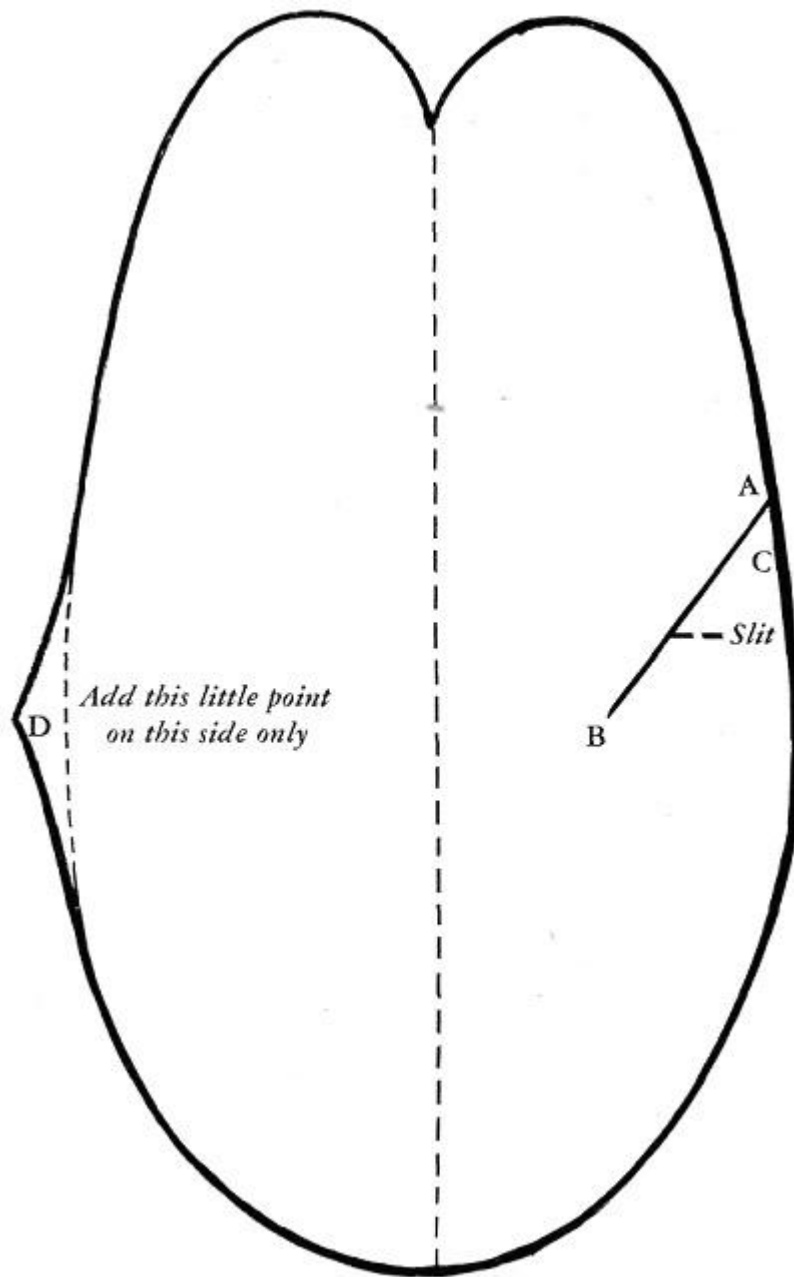
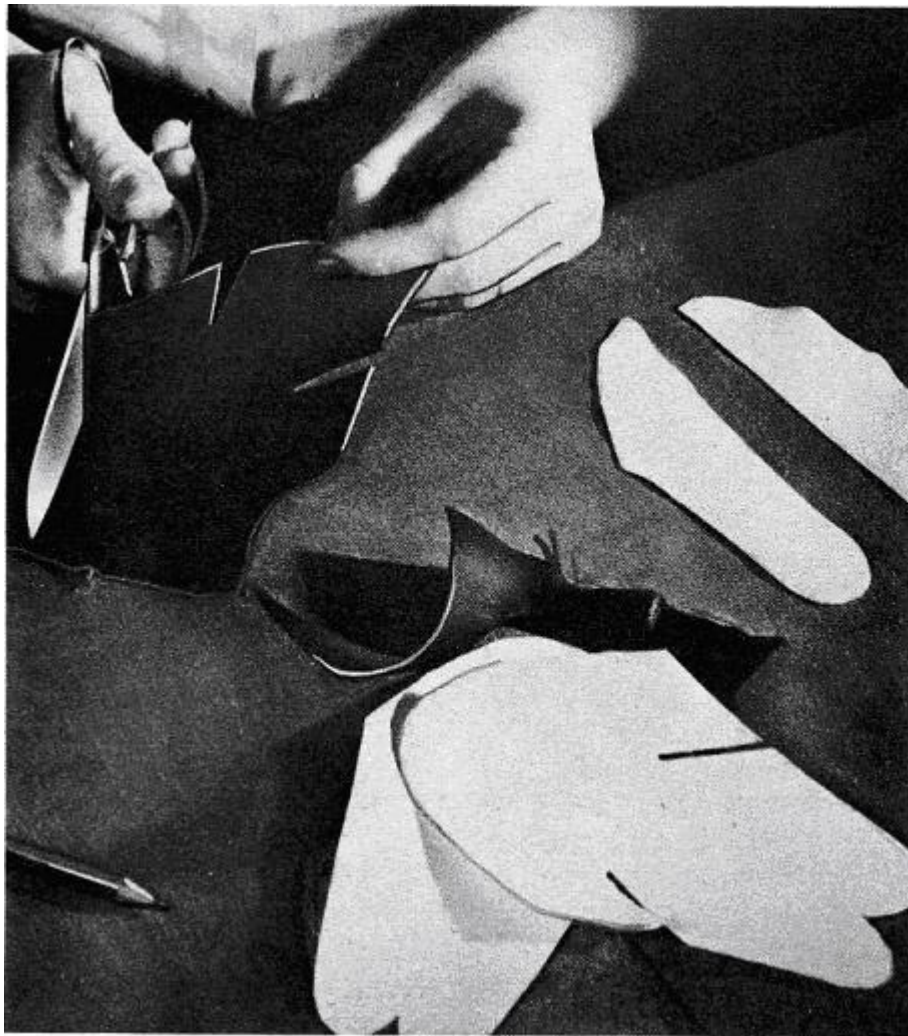


DIAGRAM 21. PATTERN FOR THUMB

Cut out your fourchette and quirk patterns as shown in [Diagrams 1](#) and [2](#), making sure that the fourchettes are equal to the longest finger. When you are sure your pattern is as accurate as you can make it, trace it on to a piece of stiff paper or thin card and cut it out carefully. Mark the pattern as being for the left hand and put in the letters which show how to join in the thumb. Store your pattern in a large strong envelope with as few folds as possible.



CUTTING OUT THUMB

Storing Patterns

Patterns should always be kept as flat as possible. Keep all the pieces of a pattern clipped together with the directions in the envelopes and add any details you may wish to remember. Store all your envelopes in a flat box where the patterns will not get creased. If you should have the misfortune to tear a pattern it can be mended quite easily with a strip of gummed paper or Scotch tape.

HOW TO MAKE GLOVES ~ SECTION 3

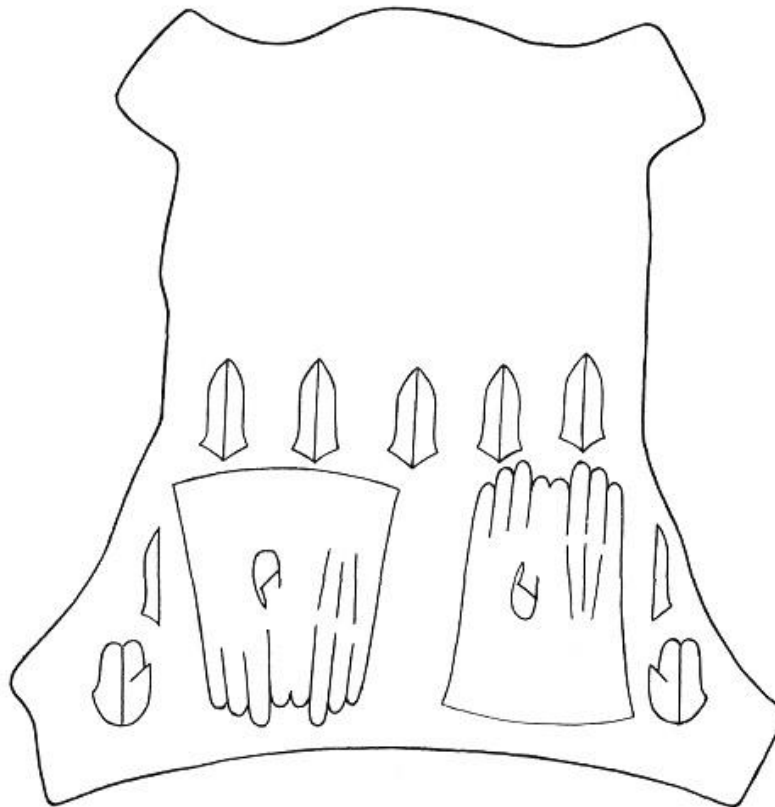
1950—How to Make Gloves
by Eunice Close

Making a Pair of Chamois Gloves

(a) Choosing the Skin

The making of a pair of unlined chamois gloves is quite simple even if you have never made any gloves before. As the material is soft and pliable it is an excellent leather on which the beginner can experiment. Buy as good a quality of leather as you can afford. Do not be tempted to buy a cheap leather in case you spoil it. The chances are that this is just what you will do, simply because poor chamois is more difficult to use than a better quality. You will inevitably be disappointed with the result of your work and probably decide that glove making is a waste of time which, of course, it is, if you are satisfied to put your work into poor material.

When you buy the skin hold it up to the light and note if there are thin places or flaws in it. If these are near the middle choose another skin. Feel, too, if there are any hard bits in it. If these are near the edge they will not matter, but a thick spot near the centre can be a nuisance.



HOW TO CUT A PAIR OF GLOVES OUT OF THE WHOLE SKIN

Having chosen your leather decide how you are going to stitch it. Black, brown, or navy buttonhole twist is decorative, and being in a contrasting color is a great help in showing you if your seams are done

properly. The stitch must be done very evenly, so if you are in any doubt as to your ability to make the stitches perfectly regular choose a matching gloving thread. You will not need a special gloving needle for chamois, but can use an ordinary sewing needle with an eye large enough to take whatever thread you decide to use.

(b) Marking and Cutting Out

This is almost the *most important operation* in glove making and it is imperative that you do it properly. No amount of “wangling” afterwards will put right a seam that is even slightly askew. Stretch the leather well in all directions. Some chamois leather is supplied to the shops, already stretched, and if this has been done you need not stretch it further, except to find out which way is more elastic. Most good leathers stretch more across the width than they do lengthways, and when placing your pattern on the leather you must make sure that the “stretch” will go round the hand and not up and down.

Pin the leather, well-stretched, face down on a drawing board or other perfectly smooth surface. The top of the kitchen table will do quite well if you have no objection to sticking thumbtacks in it. Lay the pattern on the leather and go round each section very carefully, using a soft well-sharpened pencil. Hold the pattern very firmly so that it cannot slip, since it is very easy to make an error which you will not be able to put right once the glove has been cut out. Draw round the top of each finger, then bend back each section so that you can draw the lines for the slits between them.

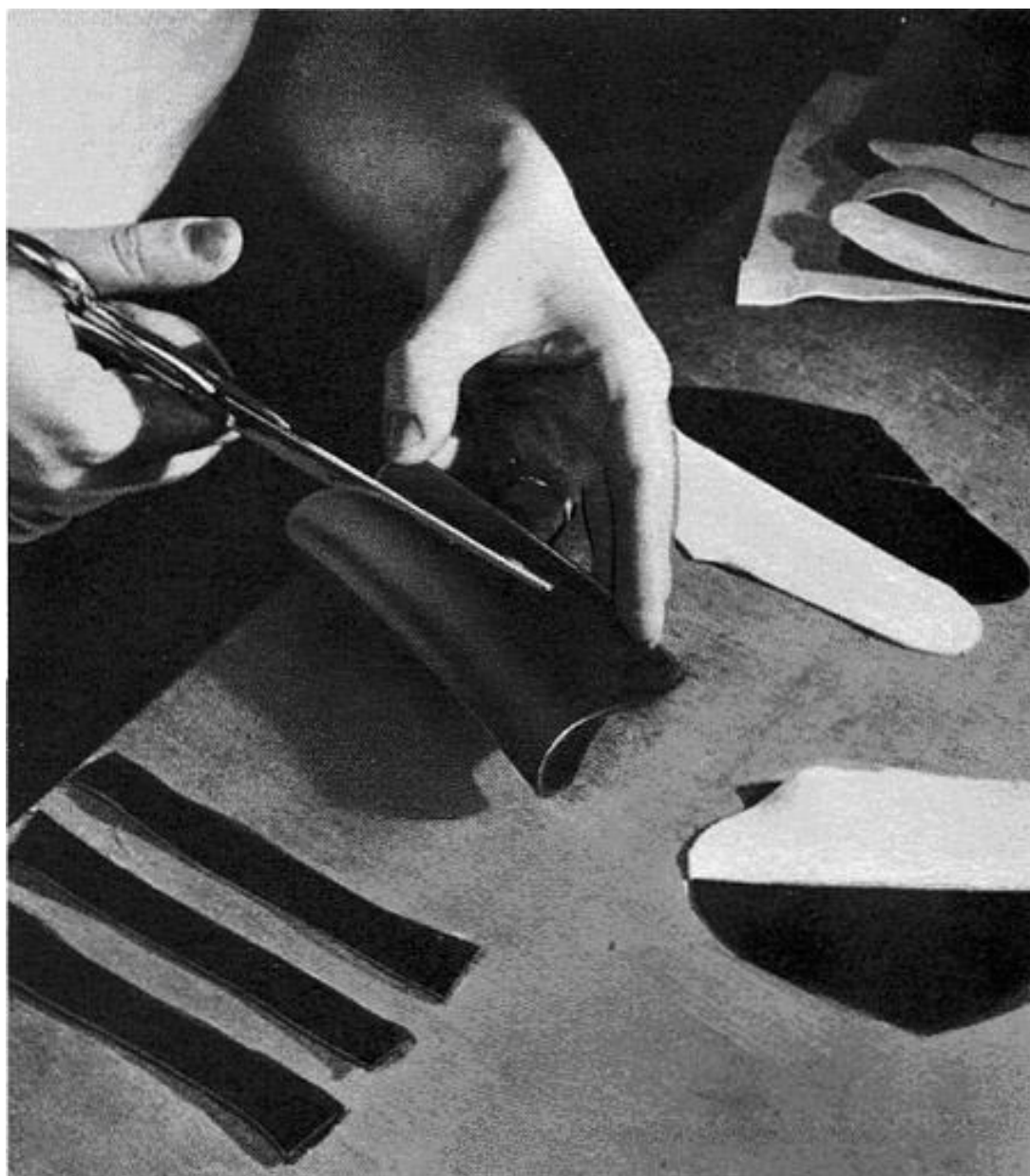


DRAWING AROUND PATTERN

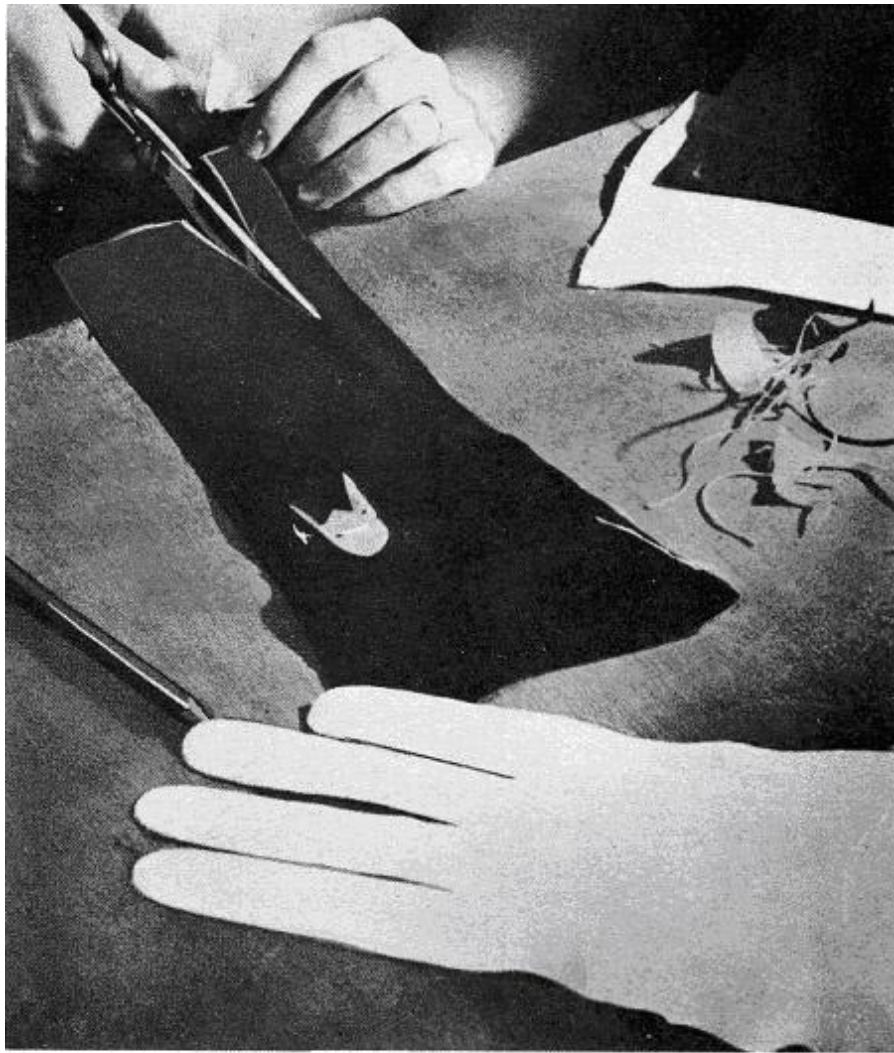
Turn the patterns for the trunk and thumb over for the second glove and be careful to draw the hole for the thumb very accurately. When using chamois you may find it more economical to turn the pattern upside down for the second glove. If you wish to do this it is a good idea to cut out the first trunk and lay it beside

the pattern while you draw the second one. In this way you can make quite sure that you will not find yourself with two gloves for the same hand.

As chamois is so pliable and stretches in wear, even when it has been well-stretched beforehand, it is not usual to include quirks. You will, therefore, find that most chamois patterns use single fourchettes. Draw round the fourchette pattern six times for the first glove, then turn it over and draw round it another six times. The thumb and fourchettes must be placed on the leather in the same directions as the main part.



CUTTING OUT FOURCHETTES



CUTTING OUT TRANK

You will probably find your pencil point wearing down as you work, so keep a penknife handy. Absolute accuracy is essential as otherwise the various parts of the glove will not fit, and even the thickness of a pencil can make a difference.

Having marked out all the pieces, remove the thumbtacks and cut out each piece very carefully, following the pencil line.

Make long smooth cuts wherever possible, for it is very difficult to trim off jagged edges once the leather has been cut.

(c) Making Up

The one drawback to making up chamois leather, which does not affect other types, is that if it is of good quality it is sometimes difficult to tell the right side from the wrong. For this reason I always make a practice of inserting both thumbs first. Once I have made sure that I have a glove for each hand I can finish one glove outright.

The insertion of the thumb often proves to be difficult for the beginner, but if you study the pattern or the diagrams I give you, you should find it quite simple. Remember that the lowest point of the projecting piece on the trunk always goes to the top of the slit on the thumb. Lay the wrong sides of the thumb and trunk together so that the point marked A on the trunk is on top of the point marked A on the thumb and the two edges marked AB are together. The two edges must be exactly the same size. Stab stitch the seam, starting at A and going on to B. Continue the seam along the lines marked BC till you come to C. Place the edge of the hole and the curved edge of the thumb together and continue the seam until you are halfway round the hole. Now fold the thumb in half and stab stitch the two edges together, starting at the top and going down the side of the thumb. Continue round the hole till you reach the place where you left off. Fasten off both ends firmly on the wrong side.

You may find that the thumb is a little too large for your hole in spite of all your care in marking and cutting out. Do not try to gather or ease the thumb to make it fit, but stretch the edge of the hole *very gently* so that the seam lies perfectly flat. This usually has the effect of making the thumb fit perfectly, but if it should not you may cut off the merest shaving of leather, either round the edge of the hole or round the bottom of the curved edge of the thumb. If the opposite happens and you find that your thumb is too small, stretch the edge of the thumb. (Diagram 22.)

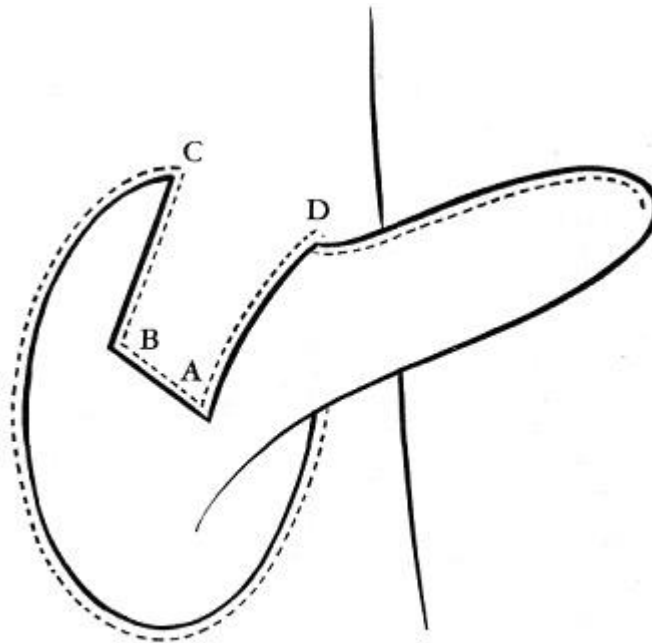
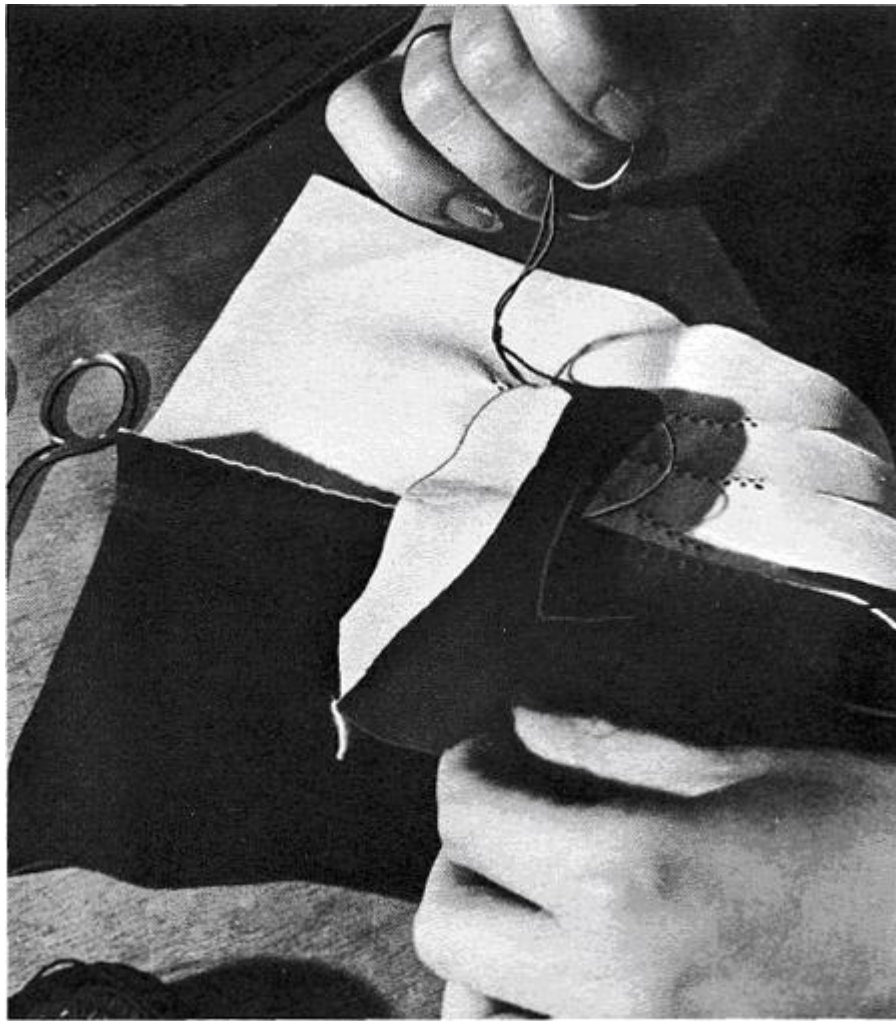


DIAGRAM 22. THUMB SEWN IN PLACE

The next process is to put in the points. Tucks are the most usual method for chamois gloves as the thonged decorations mentioned earlier are more suitable for thicker and stiffer leathers. You will probably find that the position of the points is indicated on your pattern either by lines or a series of dots or holes. If it is not, simply fold the back of the glove in half, in line with the centre slit, and make a tuck one-eighth inch deep, starting one-quarter inch from the slit and extending for about three inches down the back of the glove. Open out the trunk and refold in line with the slit nearest the thumb. Slope the tuck in a little towards the bottom of the centre tuck and make it the same length, starting one-quarter inch below the first tuck and continuing one-quarter inch beyond the end of it. Make a third tuck to match on the other side of the first. The tucks may be machine stitched instead of worked in stab stitch or they can be worked in crossed oversewing.



SEWING IN THUMB

The next step is to sew the fourchettes together in pairs, oversewing them on the wrong side along the short edge. Watch carefully to see that you have three pairs for each hand. Now take the first pair and place the end of the seam you have just made to the bottom of the slit between the first two fingers on the back of the hand so that the longest side of the right-hand fourchette lies along the inner edge of the first finger. (Diagram 23.) Stab stitch the finger and fourchette together until you reach a point about halfway up. Then measure the fourchette. As the fourchettes are all cut the same length it is obvious that some of them will be too long. Trim the fourchette you are sewing so that the top is the same shape as before. The pointed tip should reach to a point about three-sixteenths of an inch below the centre of the curved top of the finger. Continue to the very top of the fourchette and fasten off very firmly. Some people like to take point of the fourchette to the very tip of the finger, but personally I find it is possible to make a much neater finish if they do not quite meet. Go back to the bottom of the fourchette and sew the back of the second one of the pair to the edge of the second finger, trimming it off to fit as before. Sew the next pair between the second and third fingers and the last pair between the third and fourth fingers.

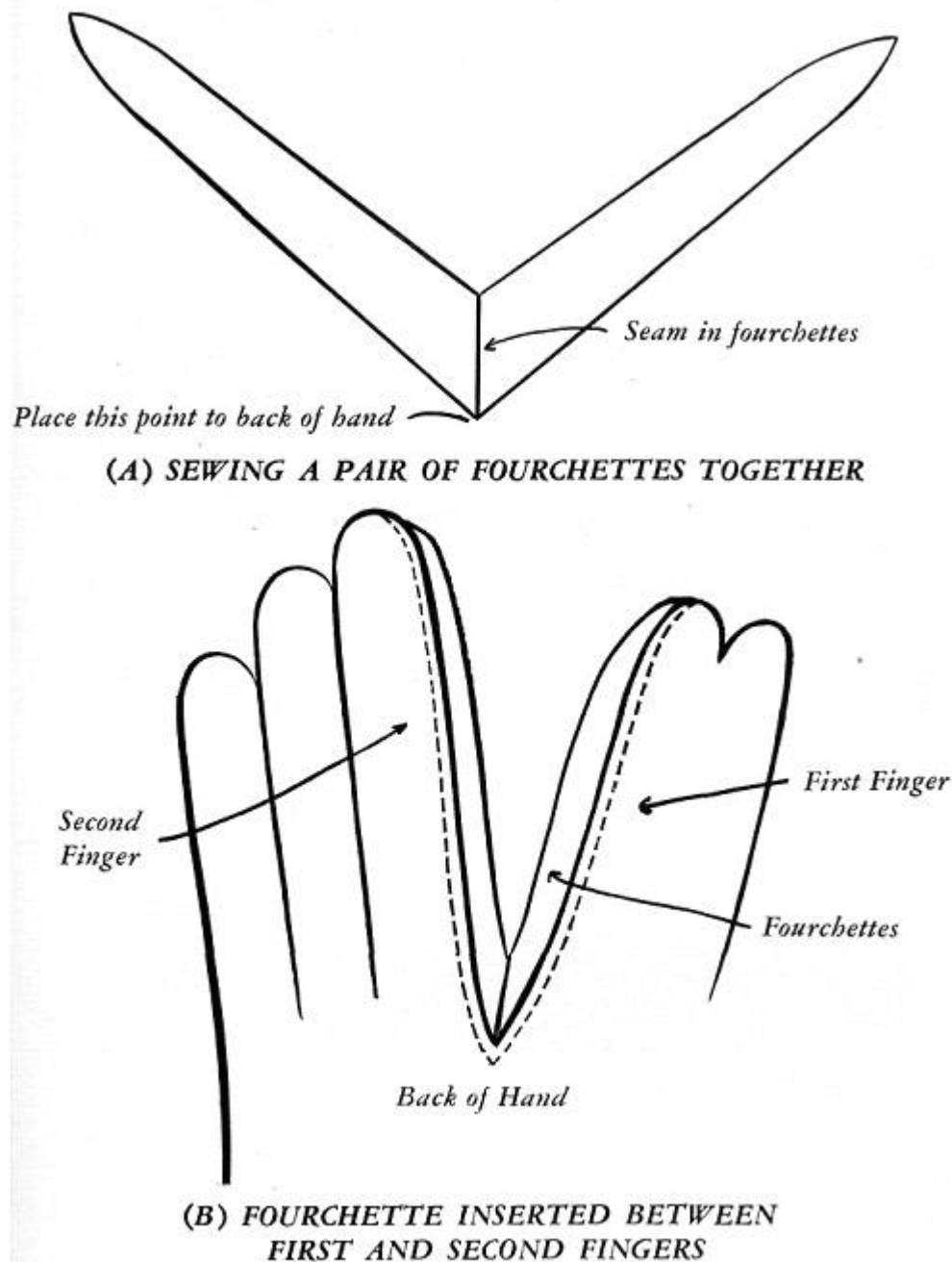


DIAGRAM 23

Now take a thread long enough to go all round the fingers as far as the wrist edge and stab stitch the front sections of the fingers to the free edges of the fourchettes. Make sure that the end of the seam in the fourchettes fits exactly into the bottom of the proper slit. When you reach the tip of the little finger merely sew edges down the side of the glove until you reach the wrist edge.

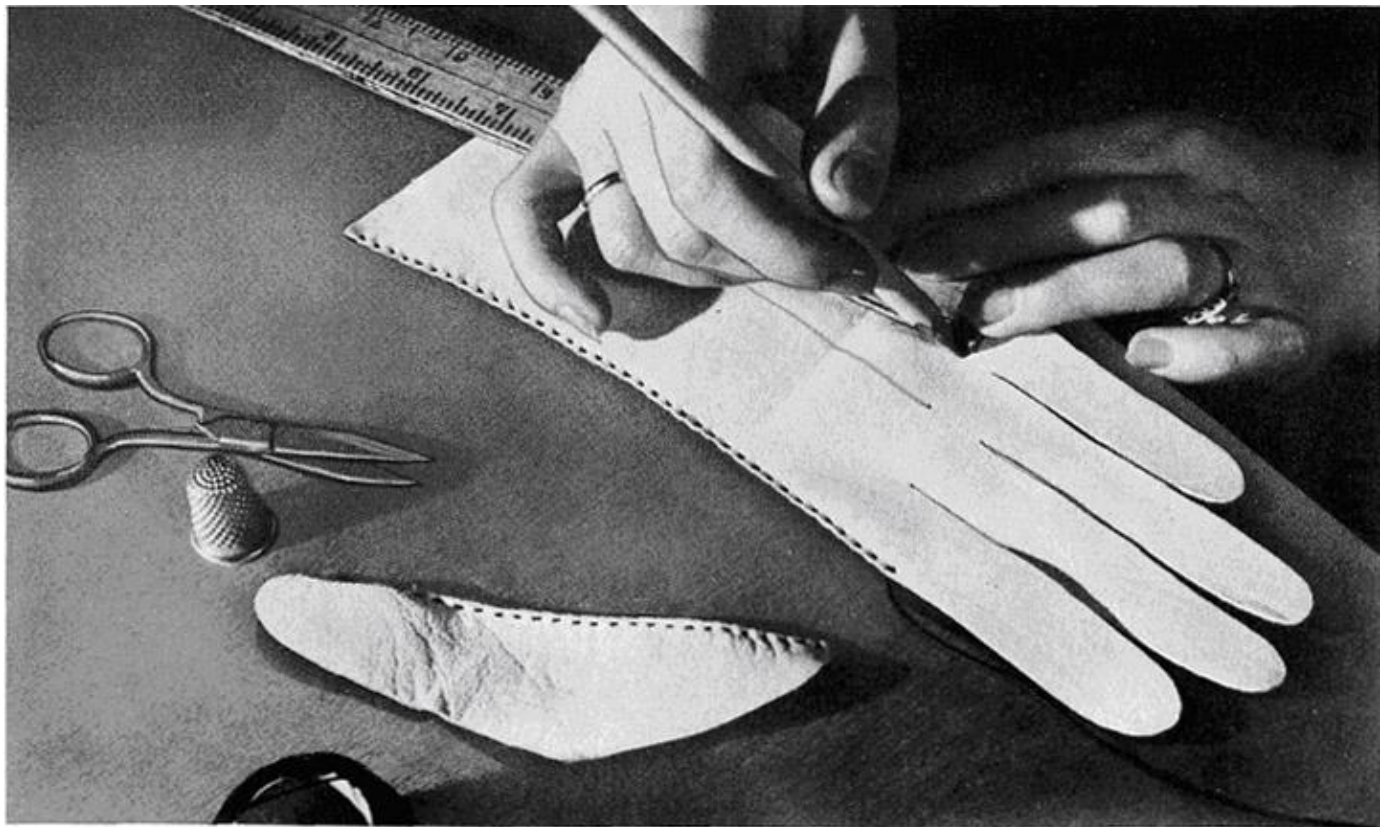
If the glove fits at all loosely sew a piece of elastic to the wrist. Finish off the wrist edge in one of the ways described above. When the gloves are finished, press them as flat as possible by tucking in the fourchettes till each one is hidden by the back and front of the fingers. Press for at least twenty-four hours under a heavy weight. A pile of books will do provided the gloves are completely covered. This treatment will give a professional finish to your work, and though it will not be mentioned again it should be used

on every type of glove described in this book, except of course such gloves as can be pressed in the usual way with a hot iron.

Making Unlined Gloves for a Man

The making of gloves for men is in most respects exactly the same as making them for women. At the same time there are a few points which call for consideration. Men are, on the whole, pretty conservative in their ideas about gloves and most of them prefer plain kid or pigskin gloves with a one-stud fastening and no “fancy bits.”

Patterns for men’s gloves come in various sizes, and it is also possible to make a basic pattern for men’s gloves as described on a previous page. It is not a wise proceeding to attempt to adapt a woman’s pattern to make a pair of gloves for a man, as too much alteration in width is required. The chief difference in the patterns is found in the width of the fingers and the fourchettes, since men’s hands are usually — though not always — thicker as well as larger.

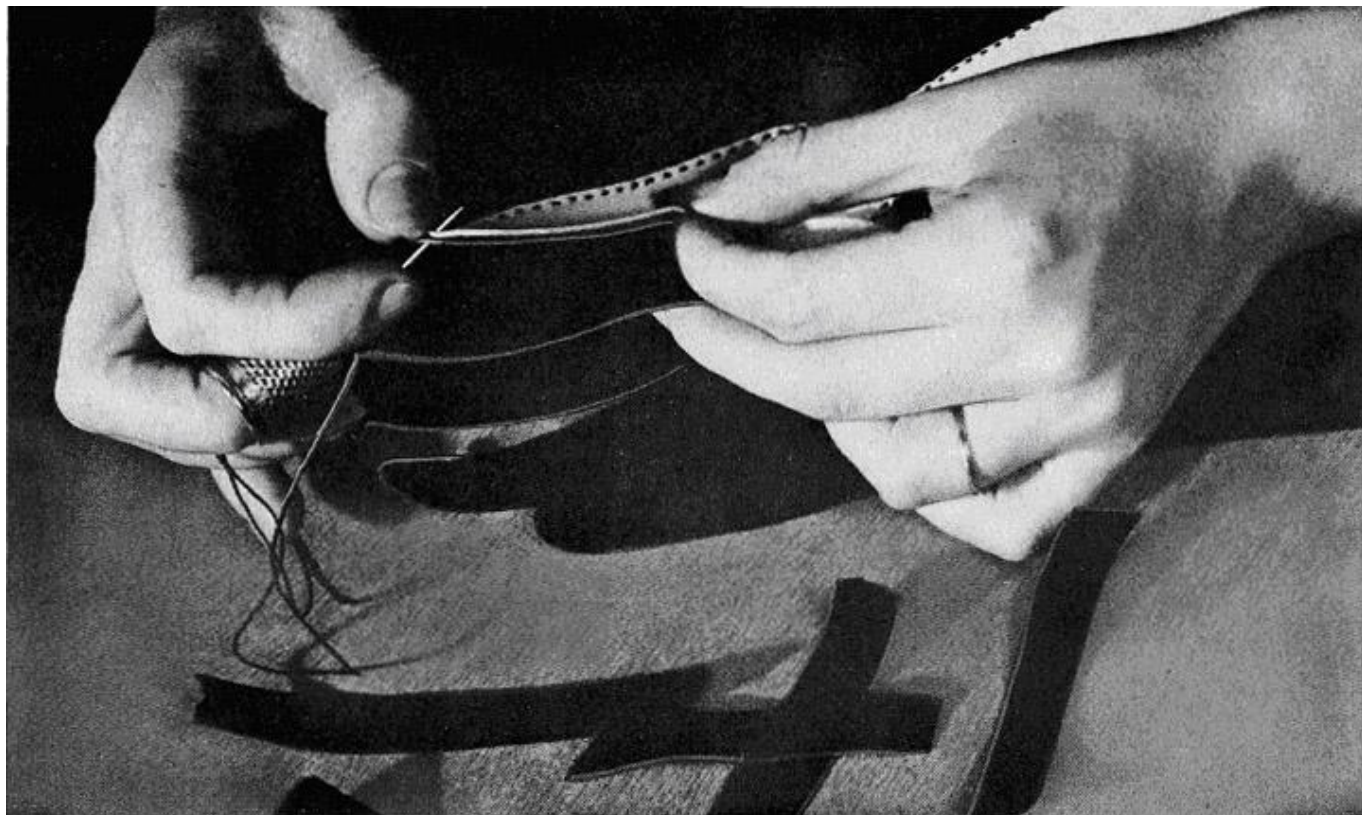


DRAWING GUIDE LINES FOR TUCKS

Since men’s gloves are usually made of fairly sturdy leather it is better to include quirks. Mark out your pattern on the wrong side of the leather in the usual way. Ordinary drawing pencil can be used for pigskin, but this will not show up on a brown leather such as kid. Use instead a white or yellow crayon pencil kept well sharpened.

Cut out all the pieces very carefully and sew the quirks into the fourchettes straight away. This lessens the chances of losing the tiny pieces or throwing them away as scraps. ([Diagram 2.](#)) Use strong gloving thread in a color to match the leather and a three-sided gloving needle.

Sew in the thumbs as described for the chamois gloves. You will notice that the hole and the curved part of the thumb are considerably larger than the corresponding parts of a woman's glove. Put in the points next. These should be three simple tucks put in either by hand or by machine.



SEWING IN FOURCHETTE



SEWING IN FINAL FOURCHETTE

Sew the fourchettes between each pair of fingers, putting the longest sides to the back of the gloves as before. Fold the glove in half and sew all round the fingers and down the side to the wrist edge. Make sure that the centre point of each quirk comes exactly to the base of each slit on the front of the hand. (Diagram 24.) Sew all these seams very firmly as they get a good deal of wear, and be very particular about how you fasten the thread on and off.

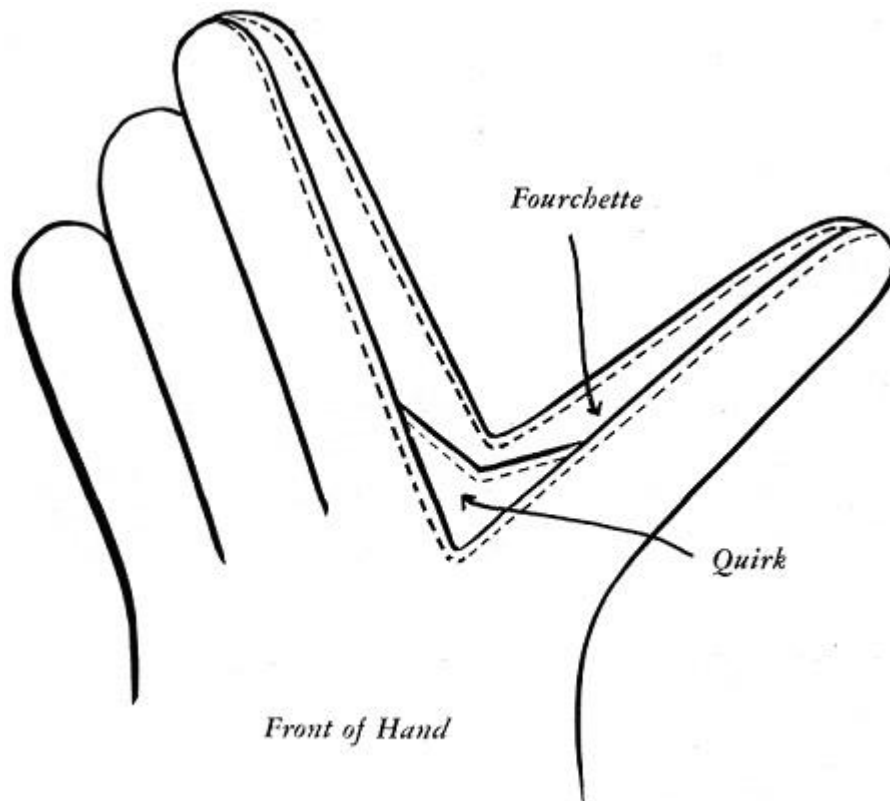
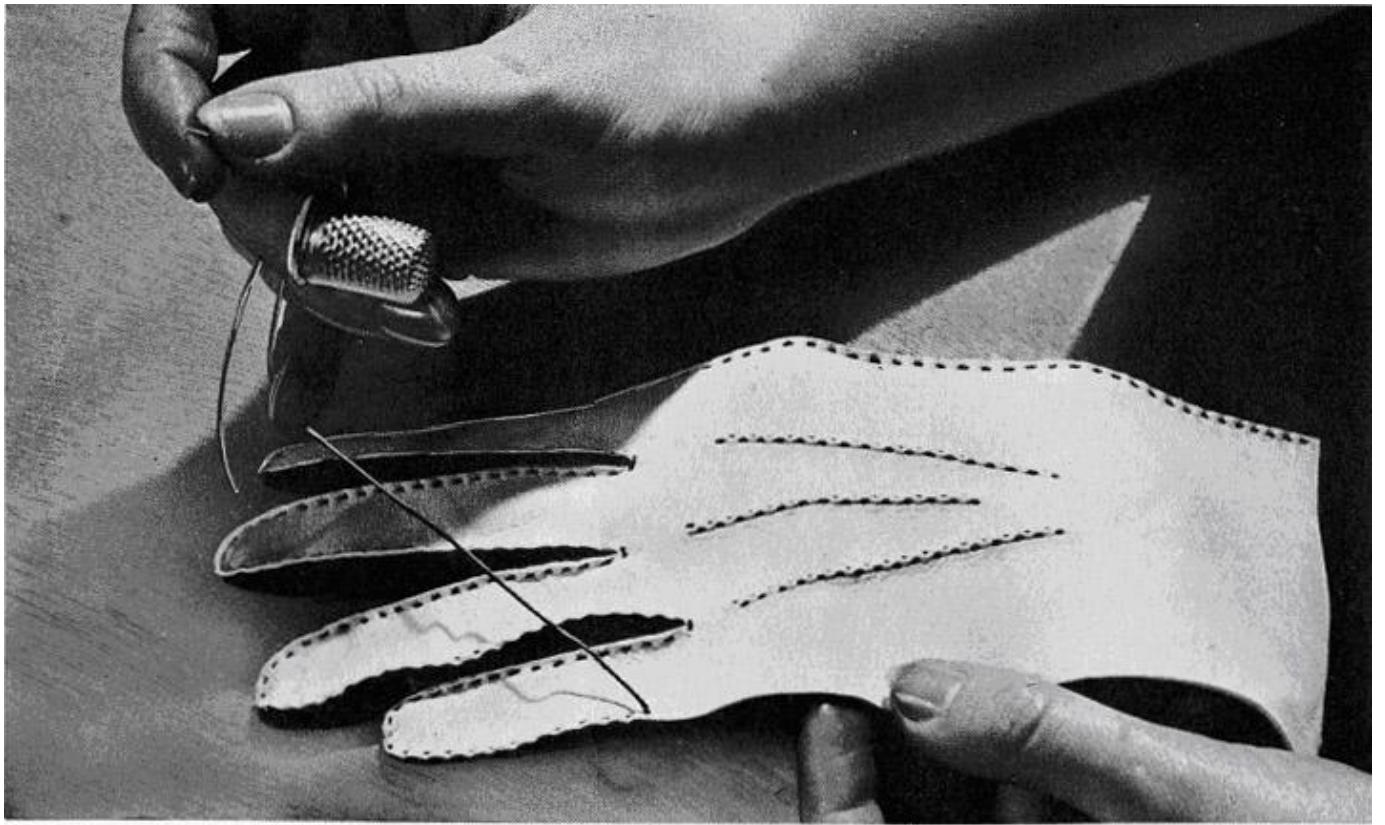


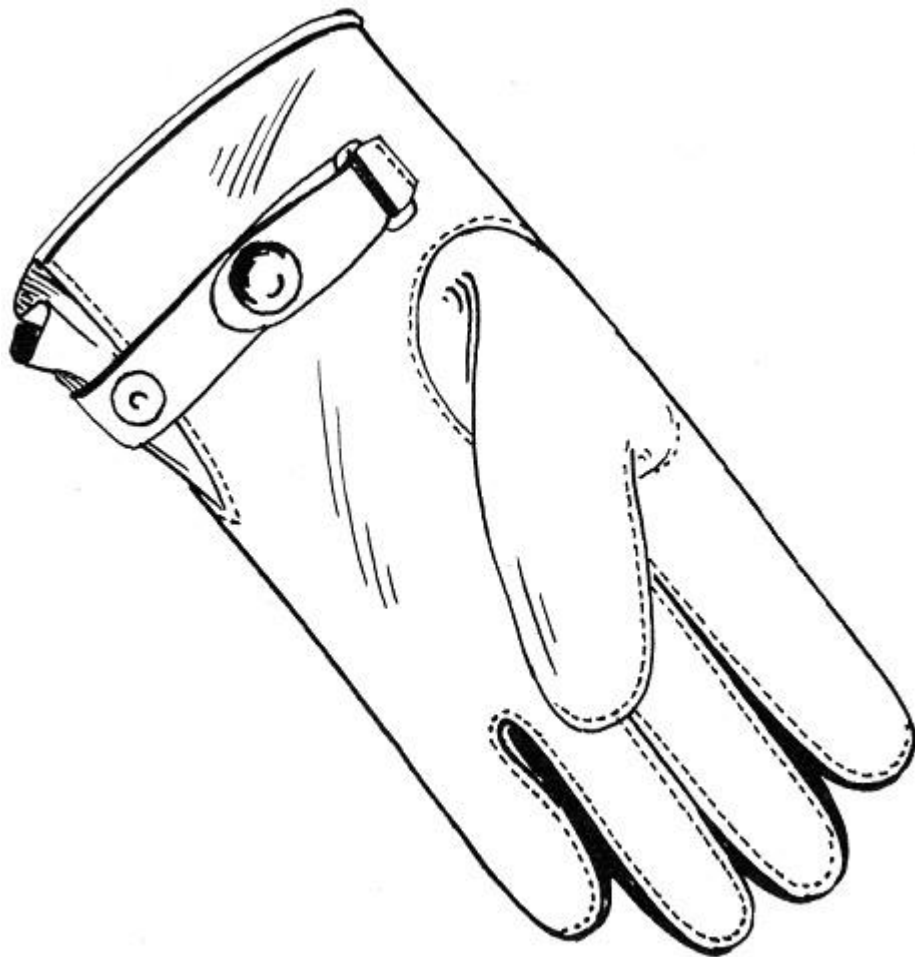
DIAGRAM 24. SEWING UP SEAM ON FRONT

If the glove has to have a press stud fastening slit it up the centre front to a point just above the bottom of the thumb seam. There is no need to shape this opening as the wearing and fastening of the glove will pull it into the right shape. Measure the wrist edge and opening and cut a strip of leather a little longer and about one-half inch wide. Thicker leather needs a strip that is a little wider. Start at the wrist seam and sew this strip all round the edge and opening on the right side. When you reach the place where you started, cut off the ends of the strip so that they just meet and oversew them on the wrong side. Make the seam as flat as possible. Turn the strip over on to the wrong side and either machine stitch or herringbone all round. Insert the press stud as shown in [Diagram 15](#), putting the top half of the stud on the side of the glove nearest to the seam. *Do not forget* to put a scrap of leather under each half of the stud so that the stud will not pull out when the glove is worn.



SEWING OUTER EDGE

Another men's wrist top is called Strap and Snap.



STRAP AND SNAP

Making Lined Gloves for a Man

We come now to the making of lined gloves. This is not at all a difficult undertaking, although naturally it takes a little longer to make lined gloves than it does to make an unlined pair because there are the extra seams in the lining. When buying your pattern make sure that it is one that is meant for lined gloves or you may find that the finished pair will be too small. A *size larger* than you need in an unlined pattern should be just about the right size for a pair with linings.

Lined gloves are usually better if they have quirks, so it is advisable to have double fourchettes. As lined gloves are generally made from thicker leather than unlined ones, be very careful when cutting out that you hold the scissors at right angles to the leather. Mark and cut out your leather and then cut out the trunks and thumbs only in the lining material you have chosen or managed to get. If you wish to knit your linings you will need one ounce of wool in a fine two-ply and a pair of No. 2 needles. Knit and press a specimen square first so that you can calculate how many stitches and rows you will need. Use the glove pattern as a guide to size and shape. If liked, the thumbs can be knitted all in one with the trunk.

Start in the usual way by sewing in the thumb. Next make the points. If you use one of the punched designs described on a previous page, you may find that there is a danger of the lining showing through the holes. To remedy this cut a strip of thin leather or tape to match the leather and sew it neatly over the back of the thonged decoration, being careful not to let your stitches show on the right side.

Sew the lining thumb and trunk together by seaming on the wrong side and slip the lining thumb into the leather thumb. Lay the lining on top of the leather and slip stitch or herringbone the sides of the lining to the seams on the back of all the fingers and just inside the cut edge on the front of the fingers. Sew the sides of the lining together, starting at the top of the little finger and finishing at the wrist edge. Fold the glove in half and sew together all round the fingers and down the side. Oversew the lining and glove together all round the wrist edge and any slits that may form part of the edge. This is not strictly necessary, but makes the binding or hemming of the edge very much easier. Turn the edge of the leather up and slip stitch or machine to the lining, making sure that the stitches do not go through to the right side. Should you, for any reason, wish to thong the wrist edge, work the thonging first, then cut the lining a little shorter and slip stitch to the wrist edge just above the holes punched for the thonging.

Sheepskin Gloves

We come now to a fascinating branch of glove making — the fashioning of attractive gloves from sheepskin or lamb's wool. This material differs from ordinary leather in that the wool is left on the outer side of the leather. Lamb's wool is usually shorter in pile and much softer than sheepskin. Both can be bought in the natural creamy white or dyed to attractive shades of red, brown, green and so on.

When buying sheepskin for gloves see that it is supple with a rather short pile. The heavier, stiffer kinds are better for slippers. Examine the skin carefully for flaws. Some skins are damaged in the curing and show small tears, while others have blemishes where the animal has been hurt on barbed wire or something similar. Such skins are very wasteful in use, as you have to avoid the flaws when you are cutting out the gloves and this leads to a good deal of waste.

Some of the finer types of sheepskin suitable for gloves are quite small and you will normally need two skins to make a pair. A pair of mittens for a child can sometimes be made from one small skin, but even then you may find you have to have several joins.

Sheepskin can be used either with the skin outside or with it inside as preferred by the wearer or according to the purpose for which the gloves are intended. Cyclists, for instance, would probably prefer to have the wool inside as the gloves are exposed to all kinds of weather, while the smart teen-ager would like her gloves to have sheepskin backs and leather fronts.

Sheepskin mittens are not difficult to make and are usually easier to sew and wear than gloves with fingers. The sheepskin demands special care in cutting and sewing. *Never* cut it with scissors as this will damage the pile. Use instead a razor blade or a sharp leather knife. Personally I prefer the latter as it has a handle. Remember that whether you use a knife or a razor blade it must be really sharp.

Sheepskin has not quite such a definite “way” of growing as fur, but like fur, should always be cut so that the pile goes upwards over the fingers. Remember that the wool will take up a good deal of space inside the glove, so be sure to cut the gloves large enough to allow for this.

Here are directions for making a pair of sheepskin mittens with the wool inside. Gloves with the wool outside should be made in exactly the same way as the fur-backed gloves which are dealt with a little later on. Start by making a pattern as shown in Diagram 25. If your skin is narrow or you want to economize, the pattern can be cut in half along the dotted line. This enables you to move the two halves about until the pattern is arranged to the best advantage. Do not forget that the stretch must be *across* the hand. Pin your skin firmly to a flat surface and draw all round it; take the knife and cut along each line very carefully, making sure that your knife is at right angles to the leather. Try to cut through the surface each time, as

repeated cuts may result in a jagged edge. Some people find it easier to lift up the skin and stretch it a little with the left hand, but this is a purely personal matter which each worker must decide individually. When the skin has been cut right through you can separate the various sections by pulling the staples apart very gently.

The mittens shown in the diagram consist of two parts only — the trunk and the thumb. In some patterns the thumb and trunk are cut in one piece, and in this case you simply fold the mitten in half and sew together all round. You will notice that in Diagram 25 the thumb opening is very much simpler than in the other patterns we have dealt with, being merely a shallow hollow in the front of the glove.

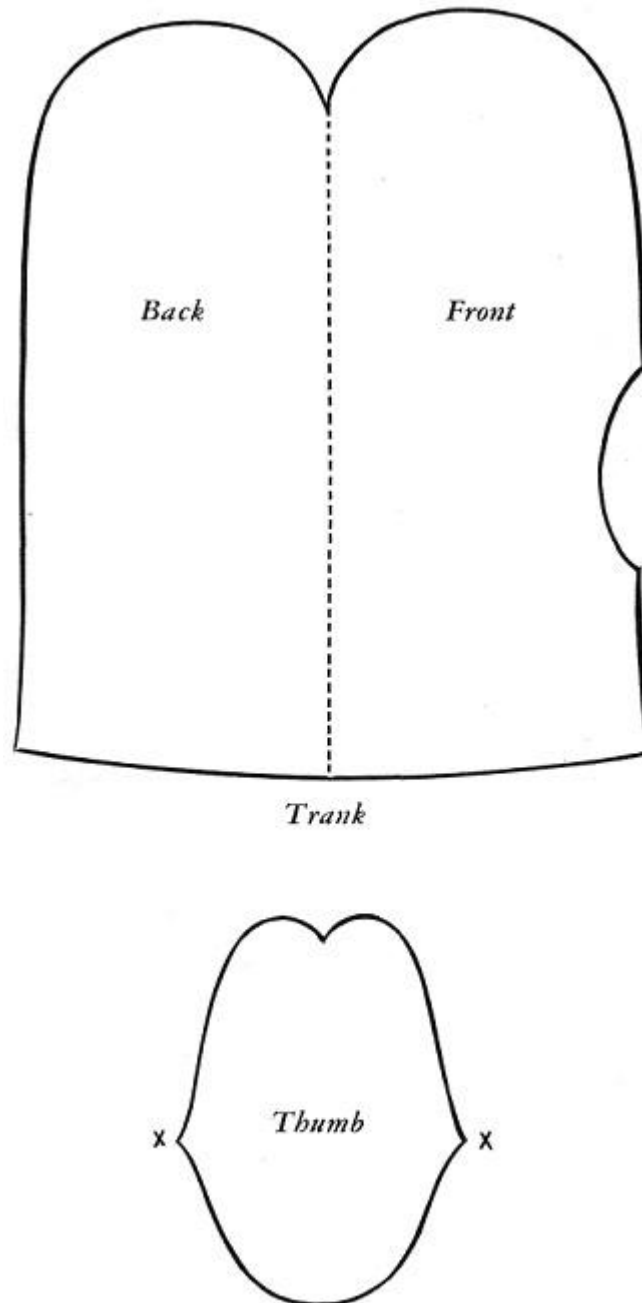


DIAGRAM 25. SHEEPSKIN MITTENS

Before starting to make up the gloves take a sharp pair of scissors and snip off the wool all round for about half an inch so that it is a little less than half the depth of the rest of the pile. This will prevent the seams from becoming thick and clumsy.

Fold the thumb in half and stitch down the side with stab stitch as far as the points marked “x” on the diagram. Smooth the wool away from the seam as you work and be careful not to let any strands of the wool poke out through your stitches. Use a gloving needle and strong matching thread. Sew the curved edge of the thumb into the curved hollow on the edge of the front section. Fold the glove in half and starting at the wrist edge sew the two halves together, taking in the remainder of the thumb on the way. Finish at the end of the top curve or, if you have cut the glove in two sections, go on down to the wrist edge.

The wrist edge can be bound with a strip of matching leather. If you have no scraps which can be utilized you can buy leather binding about one inch wide in several good colors. If liked, the edge can be turned back to make a sheepskin cuff, but in this case the trunk must be cut about two or three inches longer. Mittens with long gauntlets can be made in exactly the same way, but you will, of course, need more skin. Lengthen the pattern till it is as long as you want it and at the same time widen out at the wrist edge.

Joining Sheepskin

It is quite a simple matter to join sheepskin and if it is well done the join will not be seen on the right side. The edges to be joined must be perfectly straight and the wool must lie in the same direction. Smooth the staples away from edges to be joined, but do not trim them. Oversew very closely with fine matching thread, then work a second row of stitching in the opposite direction. Fasten on and off very firmly. Avoid joins across the knuckles or anywhere where there is likely to be much pull on them.

Inserting a Zip

Some people like to have a zip across the middle of the hand so they can pull off the top part of the mitten to allow the fingers to emerge. This is a useful addition to your mittens if you are the sort of person who goes about dropping odd gloves here and there.

It is quite a simple matter to insert a zip and adds only a quarter or so to the cost of the gloves. Zips can be obtained in lengths of four inches and upwards. They should be put in the gloves before the two halves are joined together. Slit the front half of the glove right across about one-half inch above the thumb opening. Shave off the wool right down to the skin for about half an inch along the edges of the-slit. Neaten the ends of the zip tape and turn in the edges of the slit. Top stitch either by hand or by machine over the tape, making sure that there is room for the zip key to move freely between the edges.

Zips are not always obtainable in the exact size required, but it is quite a simple matter to shorten them. Remove the “stop” at the closed end, clip off as many of the teeth as necessary, using a pair of pliers or wire cutters, and either replace the stop or oversew the tapes firmly together using matching thread.

Making Fur-Backed Gloves

Fur-backed gloves are not really difficult to make although they need a little more time and trouble. Most of the fur skins you buy in the shops nowadays have their origin on the back of the humble rabbit, but

there is no reason to despise them on that account. If you buy a good quality, well-cured skin it will give you really hard wear for several winters. Most of the furs can be obtained in black, gray and brown.

Beaver and squirrel are two more furs which make good gloves, and you may sometimes be able to find enough fur to make a pair of gloves from the best parts of a fur coat which has grown too shabby or old-fashioned for further wear.

The pattern for a pair of fur-backed gloves is a little different from that which you use for a leather pair owing to the fact that the back and front are of different material. The back of the glove usually has the thumb cut all in one with the trunk, while the front part has half a thumb inserted in the usual way.

Lay the fur face down on a flat surface with the pattern placed on top in such a way that the *fur strokes upwards* over the fingers. This is very important and fur gloves must never be cut in any other way. Be particularly careful in placing the pattern on fur which has come from what is known as chinchilla rabbit. This variety usually has a speckled gray back with a white underside which shows as a white border down each side of the cured skin. If the pattern is not placed exactly in the centre of the skin you will have more white showing down one side than the other and the gloves will look odd. As rabbit skins are not very large you will need one skin for each glove, so when buying the fur get two skins that match each other as nearly as possible, especially with regard to the amount of white in the borders.

Mark round the pattern with a black or colored pencil and cut out very carefully, using a razor blade or a sharp leather knife. Place the pattern for the front half on the wrong side of the leather and mark and cut out. Cut out the half thumb sections and the fourchettes and quirks. Cut out the linings for the trunks but not, of course, for the fourchettes. If knitted linings are made, use the glove pattern as a guide and work the lining for each glove in two pieces. If you find it easier, you can knit the thumb all in one on both back and front. In this case all you need do is knit a piece for the back lining and a piece for the front exactly the same, but with all the shapings reversed.

Sew the fourchettes together in pairs. If quirks are used with double fourchettes sew these in place. Insert each fourchette in the slits in the back of the hand in the usual way, but lay the finger and fourchette together with right sides facing instead of with the wrong sides facing as you would if you were making a prick seam. Oversew the seams very firmly, smoothing the strands of fur away from them as you work. Make sure that the point of each fourchette fits exactly into the bottom of the proper slit. Make sure, too, that you fasten your thread on and off very firmly as these seams are not so easy to repair as those worked in stab stitch.

Lay the back lining on top of the fur inside the glove and sew the edges of the fingers only to the finger seams, leaving the outer edges of the first and fourth fingers free for the time being. Join the lining thumb to the palm lining, then join the back and front linings together by making a seam from the tip of the little finger to the wrist edge on one side and from the tip of the first finger all round the thumb and to the wrist edge on the other side. This leaves the front fingers loose and these must be left as they are until the leather front has been joined to the fur back. Lay the two sections together right sides inside and oversew exactly the same seams as those made in the lining, again leaving the fingers open. Turn the glove right side out and sew the lining fingers to the leather fingers, just inside the cut edge.

Now finish off the glove in the usual way by making a prick seam all round the fingers, starting at the top of the first finger and ending at the tip of the little finger. Make sure again that the point of each fourchette, or the centre point of each quirk fits right into the bottom of the appropriate slit.

Should your glove need a strip of elastic in the wrist, put this in now, turning the lining back out of the way while you do it. The wrist edge can be finished by simply turning up the leather or fur on to the lining and hemming or herringboning down. A row of stab stitch or machine stitch, along the edge of the leather part only, makes a good finish. An alternate method is to bind the edge of the glove with a narrow strip of leather.

Joining Fur

Fur can be joined quite easily in exactly the same way as sheepskin. Wherever possible, joins should be placed where there is the least pull on the glove. Remember that the fur must all lie in one direction so that the hairs in one piece will mingle with those on the other and hide the join. For this reason joins can be made in any direction and the back of the skin can look like a jigsaw puzzle without any of the seams showing on the right side. You must, of course, be careful to see that the color matches too. Oversew all joins with fine thread and a fine needle and then flatten them out with the thumb.

Fur-Trimmed Gloves

If you have any pieces of fur which are not large enough to make a whole pair of fur-backed gloves, you can add a note of luxury to your more ordinary leather gloves by giving them a fur trimming. This can consist of a fur gauntlet extending all round the glove below the wrist. This trimming is particularly effective when carried out with smooth furs such as ocelot, leopard, Persian or Indian lamb or astrakhan. Real skins of this type are, at present, expensive, so that a little has to go a long way. This is a good way of using up odd bits of fur left over when a fur coat has been remodeled.

Strips of fur varying in width from three to about ten inches can be bought by the yard in most good stores. As they are not as a rule wide enough for making fur-backed gloves they are of no use to the worker who needs a whole skin, but they can be used very effectively as a trimming. There are also some quite attractive designs in fur cloth which can be used as a substitute for the real thing. These imitation furs are not quite so warm as real fur, but a good quality should give you plenty of wear.

White fur, while hardly suitable for gloves, except for those worn by quite tiny children, makes delightfully warm linings. Gloves lined throughout with fur are apt to be a little clumsy to wear, though many men prefer them to gloves with fur outside. Very soft fine fur with a short pile should be used and should be treated exactly as you would treat ordinary woolen linings. When cutting out such gloves be very careful to see that the *outer covering* is large enough to allow for the fur lining, or the gloves will be too tight.

Gloves which have the gauntlets only lined with fur are less bulky and are very comfortable to wear since the warmth is felt just where the cold wind is apt to be felt. As there is little pull on this part of the glove, quite small pieces can be joined to make the gauntlet lining. The best way to do this is to join up the pieces till you have a piece which is roughly the size and shape you need. Cut out the fur, using the lower part of your glove pattern. Cut out the lining, making it as much shorter than the glove pattern as the depth of the fur gauntlet. Join the fur and the lining together and make up the glove in the usual way. An attractive way of finishing off the wrist edge is to make the lining about one inch deeper than the actual glove. Turn the lining over on to the right side of the glove, thus reversing the usual procedure, and hem down neatly. Notice that the fur part of the lining must stroke downwards towards the wrist, so that when it is turned up the hairs will stroke upwards over your stitches.

Mittens from Odds and Ends

Fur-lined mittens

Short-haired fur that is worn and faded is still good for lining mittens. The outside of the mittens can be cut from wool cloth, from a worn-out dress, coat or trousers. Fur linings use up hand space, so the cloth part must be cut larger than it would be ordinarily.

Mittens and linings are seamed — the cloth part by machine with decorative hand overcasting, the fur by overhanding. With linings in place, wrist edges can be turned in and slip-stitched together. Fur cuffs can be made by turning back the edges.

Felt and knitted wool mittens

An old felt hat and a pair of wool bobby socks, worn in toes and heels, can be made into a pair of warm mittens for school. Use the hat for backs of the mittens. Cut palms from the sock tops so the ribbed cuffs will serve as wristlets. Thumbs may be either felt or knit. Machine stitch along the edge of knit parts to keep them from raveling.

For novelty, trim edges of the felt mitten backs with pinking shears. Turn under and sew the knit palms to the felt backs with hemming stitches; then join the two with decorative wool overhanding.

To make wrist fit closely, run a drawstring through the knit ribbing. Make drawstrings by twisting or crocheting wool yarn. Felt, clipped and rolled, makes neat tassels for the ends.

Suede Gloves

Suede is almost the most attractive leather you can use, especially for making gloves of the more formal type. I have lately seen some most attractive elbow length gloves in beautiful shades of suede but I must admit that they are decidedly expensive, especially as the number of occasions on which they can be worn is rather limited. If you can manage to get the suede, you can make a pair of similar gloves for about half what they would cost if bought from a shop.

Elbow length gloves naturally require more leather than shorter ones, and in the case of suede you cannot economize by turning the pattern for the second glove upside down. Make sure, therefore, that the skin you buy is long enough to take the trunk of each glove with the fingers on each pointing upwards.

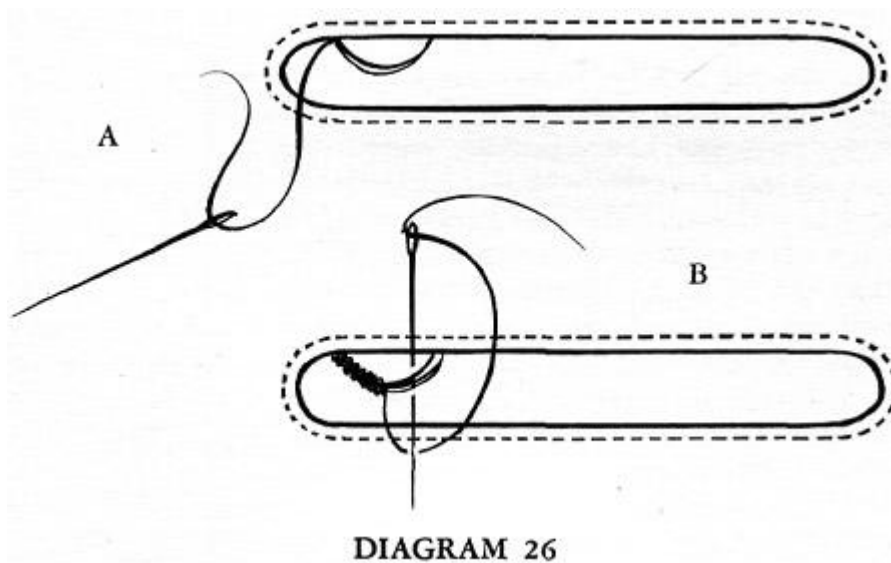
As I have already pointed out, suede has a definite pile, and if the various sections of the glove are not all placed on the skin in the same direction some parts of the finished glove will appear lighter than others. Stroke the surface of the skin up and down and notice which way makes the suede appear darker. Place the pattern on the skin in such a way that the surface looks darker when you stroke it towards the wrist.

Before marking out your skin measure the arm at its widest point and decide whether your glove will be wide enough. If the pattern is a little too narrow add the extra width required when you are marking out the pattern. Cut out the suede carefully. Quirks can be included if liked, but as suede stretches rather more than most leathers they are not strictly necessary.

Cut a slit three inches long in the centre of the front part of each trunk, making it one and one-half inches above and below the actual place where the wrist joins the hand. Sew in the thumbs and fourchettes in the usual way, using very fine thread and a fairly fine needle. Make the seams as narrow as possible without sewing them so near to the edge that there is a danger of the suede pulling away, and keep the stitches very small and even. Work the points on the back of each trunk, using simple stab stitched or machine stitched tucks.

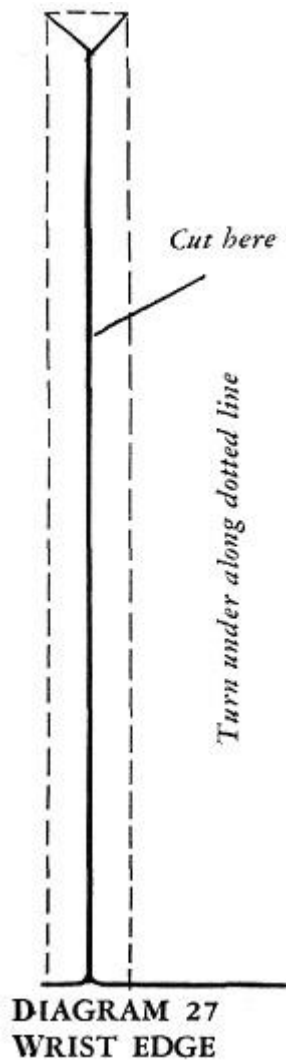
Cut a narrow strip of suede and bind the slit in the front of the glove. If you are a very neat worker you may like to make small buttonholes in the way described on a previous page, but I must warn you that this is a very fussy little job and must be done very neatly if it is to be a success. Make the buttonholes first, then bind the edge, sewing the binding down over the buttonhole strips, but not, of course, over the holes.

An easier method is to work small buttonhole loops. The number depends on the size of the buttons you intend to use, but as these should be very small and dainty you will probably find that you will need at least five loops. Join the thread to the back of the binding, then take three stitches about one-quarter inch long as shown in Diagram 26 A. Work over these stitches in close buttonhole stitch to make a loop. (Diagram 26B.) Slip the needle through the binding and bring it out a little further on to start the next loop. Notice that the loops or buttonholes should be worked on the side of the slit nearest to the thumb.



Fold the glove in half and sew all round the fingers and down the side in the usual way; sew on small fancy or pearl buttons to correspond with the loops or buttonholes, taking the stitches through the binding and not through the single thickness of the suede so that they will not pull a hole in the material.

The edges of this type of glove are usually left unhemmed as the gloves are often worn pulled down and wrinkled over the forearm. Another way of opening the glove to allow it to be pulled on easily is to insert a zip right down the back. Lightweight plastic zips are now available and being made in various colors can be decorative as well as useful. Slit the glove for the length required, turn in the edges and top stitch either by hand or by machine over the zip tape. Be sure to leave sufficient space between the suede edges to allow the zip key to move up and down easily. The ends of the zips should be finished off neatly as shown in Diagram 27. A small tassel is made from the suede or from matching embroidery silk should be slipped through the zip key.



Felt Gloves

Felt is an extremely useful material for making gloves since it can be sewn without having to be neatened. It differs from leather in several ways and as you would expect needs slightly different treatment on that account. Felt is a woolen material but it is made, not by being woven on a loom, but by being very closely compressed. It can be thin and rather poor in quality or can be really thick and solid. The texture may be coarse or fine, depending upon the quality of the wool from which it is made. It can be obtained in all kinds of fascinating colors, some deep and vivid, others as delicate as the petals of a flower.

When choosing felt for glove making look for a firm, close material with a very fine texture. It must not be too thick or the gloves you make will be clumsy, but it must be firm enough to prevent the material from pulling away from the stitches. Felt can be bought by the yard, when it is usually about thirty-six inches wide, or it can be obtained in pieces ranging from about four to eighteen inches square. The size of these pieces varies very much as many shopkeepers cut them up according to their own ideas of what their customers will want. The fact that such small pieces can be bought often means a considerable saving as you need only buy just as much as you require. All the small scraps left over should be saved as they can be used very successfully for making appliqué trimmings and so on.

Gloves with a thumb only and no fingers can be made very successfully from felt and when embroidered in gay colors are very popular with winter sports enthusiasts. They usually have the thumb cut in one with trunk, and the pattern can be made very simply by laying the hand flat on the table and drawing round it. Cut out the felt, allowing a good margin all round. The one seam, which goes all round the thumb and the top of the hand, can be machine stitched, stab stitched or joined with a row of oversewn buttonhole stitch. Any embroidery should be worked before this seam is made. The glove may be pressed with a hot iron when it is finished, but avoid using a damp cloth as this may shrink the felt. Felt used for this type of glove may be considerably thicker than that used for gloves which have fingers.

The use of felt for glove making considerably increases the range of colors available. Two colors can be combined to good effect. A pair of black felt gloves can be enlivened by fourchettes and bindings in pastel shades of blue, pink or green, or made vivid with the help of a splash of scarlet, royal blue or emerald green. If you wish to use a contrasting shade you need buy only just as much as you need.

Felt can be embroidered with wool or silk and any decoration of this kind should be done before the glove is made up. Any ordinary transfer design can be used and you stamp it on the felt with a hot iron in the usual way. Use a yellow transfer for dark shades and a blue for light ones. Should you wish to draw your own design you will find that an ordinary pencil or crayon such as you use for marking out patterns on leather will be quite satisfactory.

When making up felt gloves mark and cut the pattern just as you would if you were using leather. It is possible to pin a paper pattern to the surface of the felt and cut out the glove in this way, but the first method is generally found to be more satisfactory as it is possible to keep the felt flatter. As the felt is not woven there is no need to lay the pattern on it in any particular direction, so that you can move your pattern about and cut out the gloves with the minimum of waste.

Sew all the seams on the right side, using stab stitch just as you do when working with leather. Another method is to use double oversewing to form a row of crosses along each seam. Use a slightly thicker thread for this. If liked the stitching can be worked in thread of a contrasting color provided that the stitches are kept perfectly even. The depth of the stitches must be uniform all along the seam. Remember that the needle must go through the felt at right angles each time.

Wrist edges may be finished off in any of the ways described in a previous section. It is not advisable to use buttons and buttonholes or press studs as a fastening as these have a tendency to pull out when the glove is worn. If you must use buttons and buttonholes for any reason sew a strip of matching tape below the buttons and work the holes with buttonhole twist.

Felt gloves are not usually lined nor is it advisable to use felt for linings for leather gloves. It is possible to make seams in felt gloves by machine, but unless your machine is extremely easy to manipulate and you are a very experienced worker you will find it easier and quicker to do the work by hand.

HOW TO MAKE GLOVES ~ SECTION 4

1950—How to Make Gloves
by Eunice Close

Other Materials

I have seen some most attractive gloves in gingham and stockinette, and these can quite easily be made at home if you are prepared to go to a certain amount of trouble. The material you use must be very closely woven and must on no account be the sort of material that frays easily, as this forces you to make the seams very much wider than is wise. Gloves of this type can be made from pieces left over from a summer frock. If you have to buy new material you will need about half a yard for a pair of medium length pull-on style gloves. This may seem a lot but you must remember that the gloves have to be cut on the bias in order to give the maximum amount of stretch across the hand. To get the true bias of a piece of material fold up the selvedge edge so that it is either lying along or is parallel to the cut edge. Crease this fold, open out your material and lay the pattern on it so that the centre line running down the hand is parallel to the crease. Be very careful about this as gloves cut off the true bias will tend to wrinkle where they should fit smoothly. This method of cutting out is very successful when striped or checked materials are used. The checks form a diamond pattern and the stripes cross the hand diagonally. When making striped gloves in this way remember to reverse the pattern for the second hand so that the stripes go in opposite directions. If you want gloves with stripes going up and down the hand buy material which is woven or printed in diagonal stripes.

When cutting out the gloves allow turnings of one-eighth inch on all seams. Turn in the seam allowance round each section and press with a hot iron. This gives a better result than turning in the edge as you go along and pressing the glove afterwards. Baste the seams, then sew them either by hand or machine. Stab stitch or oversewing can be used if you prefer to work by hand. Gloves made from dress materials can be sewn on the wrong side if liked, as they are thin enough to be turned right side out when the sewing is done. If you make the seams by hand use backstitch and keep your stitches very small and neat. When the gloves are finished they can be pressed in the usual way with a hot iron.

A good finish for a glove of this kind is a pleated frill which can be stitched on at the wrist edge. A bias strip of the material can be used to finish off the edge, whether it is plain or pleated. Points can be as plain or as fancy as you like. Ordinary tucks can be used or the points can consist of three rows of chainstitch. Another good material for trimming is rickrack braid which can be obtained in a good range of colors as well as black and white. Three rows down the back of the glove and one, two or three rows round the wrist edge are quickly sewn on and look most attractive.

The effect to aim for in making gloves of this type is one of crisp smartness. Needless to say they must always be immaculately clean and well pressed. A trace of starch will keep them crisp and fresh-looking. Such gloves are usually only one season's wear but they do save better gloves and are much cooler than those made from leather.

Most nylon is easy to sew and does not fray easily, and it should answer quite well for gloves. It can be washed and dried very quickly and some types need no ironing, so it might be worth your while to experiment with this material.

Stockinette or lock knit in both silk and wool can be used for gloves, but being knitted and not woven it needs slightly different treatment. There is no need to cut it on the bias since it has a certain amount of stretch naturally. One drawback to using this material is that raw edges inside seams tend to roll up, thus making the seams thick and clumsy. One way to prevent this is to turn in each section along the seam edges and machine stitch as close to the edge as possible. Trim off the surplus material close up to the machine stitching, then make up the seams on the wrong side in the usual way. The seams may also be sewn on the right side by oversewing [together over the machine stitches. Be very careful not to stretch the material while the seams are being made.

Wool stockinette is usually thicker than the silk variety but may be treated in the same way. It usually has more of a tendency to run than the lock-knit variety but this can be prevented by paying careful attention to the seams. Stockinette of all kinds stretches sufficiently for you to be able to make the seams on the wrong side, but with the wool variety particular care is needed in the pressing. The handle of a wooden spoon is a great help when turning out the fingers, and it can be held inside each finger in turn while the seams are being pressed. As a final touch, tuck the fourchette inside the fingers and press the gloves flat. Today a very popular fabric for gloves is double-woven cotton and double-woven nylon, with a sueded finish.

Evening Gloves in Net

As I mentioned above, long gloves seem to be coming back into fashion for evening wear. They are very expensive, however, and many people may feel that the cost is not justified by the amount of wear the gloves will get. For this reason you may like to experiment with net which has recently reappeared in the shops in several attractive colors as well as white.

There are one or two points which must be borne in mind when using this material. It does not stretch as much as suede and consequently the gloves must be made large enough to allow them to slip over the arm easily. The edges of the net have to be neatened and thus you must allow for the turnings when cutting out the gloves.

I have found that the best and easiest way of cutting out net gloves is to reverse the usual procedure and lay the net, carefully ironed and smoothed out, on top of the pattern. As the net is transparent you can follow the outline of the pattern quite easily. Use double fourchettes without quirks as this eliminates the seam at the base of each pair. When cutting the hole for the thumb remember that it must be a little smaller than usual to allow for the turnings, while the thumb must be a little larger for the same reason.

Turn in the edges of each section and press with a fairly hot iron. Baste the thumb into place, putting the wrong sides together and making sure that the folded edges are exactly level. Use ordinary sewing silk and buttonhole [very closely over the edges as shown in Diagram 28. Another method which is effective, although it takes a little longer, is to buttonhole all round each section, being very careful not to stretch the edge, and then to oversew the sections together, taking the stitches through the top of the buttonhole stitches only. Yet another way, for those of you who are able to crochet, is to baste up the seams and then work double crochet all round each, putting your hook into both pieces of material each time.

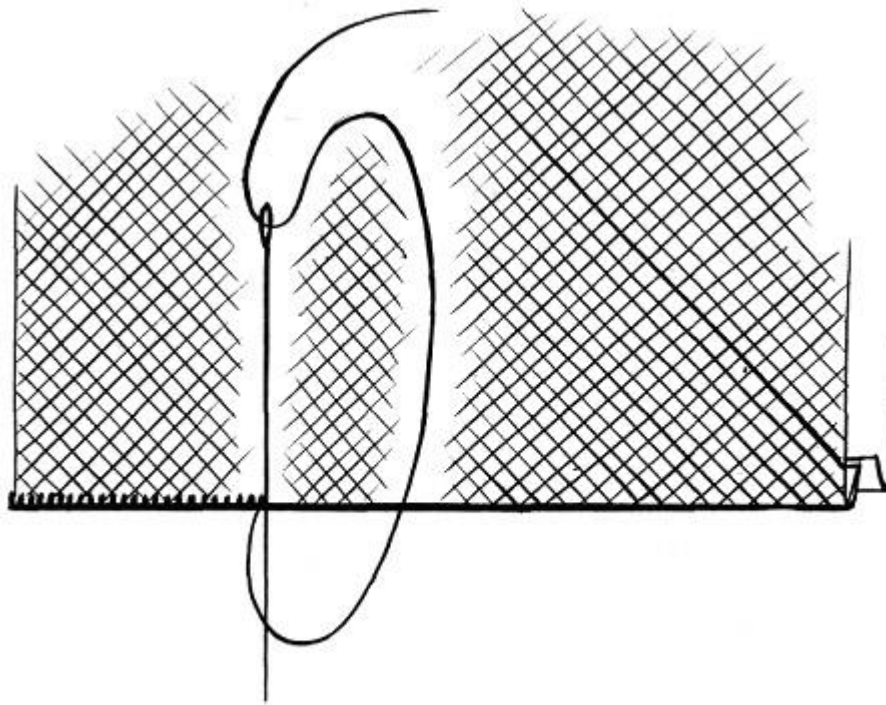


DIAGRAM 28

Before completing the actual sewing up of the glove, work any trimming that may be required. This trimming may consist of rows of chainstitch, simple darning patterns, using the holes of the net as a guide, or small motifs cut from lace appliquéed on to the net. Sequins, scattered at intervals all over the glove, except on the palm, are very effective, particularly on black. A scroll design up the back only, also looks well.

A very attractive trimming, which must, however, be done after the glove is made up, is to sew on several rows of narrow lace, starting at the thumb and going spirally up the arm, ending at the top edge. When sewing on any kind of trimming in this way remember to reverse the direction of it for the second glove.

Make a slit in the front of the glove about three inches long, putting half of it above the wrist and half below. Bind as narrowly as possible with a strip of net and work four or five buttonhole loops as shown in [Diagrams 26A and 26B](#). Press the binding and loops.

Insert the fourchettes in the usual way, fold the glove in half and sew up the remainder of the seams. Finish off the top edge in a way which will harmonize with the type of trimming you have chosen. A pleated net frill, a simple binding or a hem can be used, and if it seems necessary a piece of tubular hat elastic can be inserted in the top of the glove. A tiny border in fancy crochet can be used, the first row being worked straight into the doubled-over net.

The pattern you use for making net gloves can be used quite easily for making a pair of mitts — the old-fashioned kind whose fingers end just below the second joint. These mitts are very attractive when worn with the picture type of evening dress or for a small bridesmaid.

Measure the pattern against the hand and cut each finger to the required length plus three-quarters inch for the top hem. Cut out the mitt in the usual way, cutting the double fourchettes shorter and straight across the top. Turn in the top of each section, then turn in the edges as described for the net gloves. This will do away with the necessity for neatening the top of the fingers as the hem will be held in place by the seams,

although a decorative border, worked in crochet or buttonhole stitch, can be added if desired. Make up the mitts in the usual way, trimming them and finishing off the top edge in one of the ways suggested for the net gloves.

Working Gloves

There are several kinds of gloves which are made for some special purpose and if you can make ordinary gloves there is no reason why you should not make such working gloves, too. Most of them do not demand any great degree of skill in the making, and since a fault may pass unnoticed or, at least, not matter much, they make very good practice for the beginner.

Many women like to wear gloves while doing their chores, but it is not always a good plan to make use of ordinary gloves that have been discarded. These gloves are usually wearing out anyway and the extra strain they are put to when their wearers are cleaning grates and sweeping floors generally finishes them off entirely. It is better to make a special pair and if they are washable so much the better.

Ordinary material is not particularly suitable though it can be used if it is very closely woven. Looser weaves allow dirt and dust to seep through. Cheap quality chamois or “wash leather,” as it is usually called, answers the purpose admirably. You can sometimes buy bundles of this fairly cheaply, and even if you have to have a few joins you will find that gloves made from it will give you a surprising amount of wear.

Use an ordinary glove pattern in a slightly larger size than you usually wear. Make it with fourchettes but no quirks. The gloves should be long enough to cover the wrist and should fit fairly closely so that dust and dirt cannot get in easily. Take care to make the seams really strong as such gloves get far harder wear than ordinary ones.

Gardening Gloves

Many people who are keen gardeners dislike getting their hands stained and scratched and prefer to wear gloves of some kind. For such jobs as pruning rose trees and digging, gloves are essential, and if they can be made at home so much the better for your purse. For really heavy work, fingerless gloves with a thumb can be worn. Some gardeners, however, find that mittens do not give them enough freedom of movement and they might like the sort of gloves shown in Diagram 29. These have a thumb and a first finger, the other three fingers not being separate. To make them, use an ordinary larger size pattern but omit the two outer slits on each side. You will need only one pair of fourchettes for each glove and these should be inserted in the usual way up the side of the first finger and the section which will cover the other three fingers.

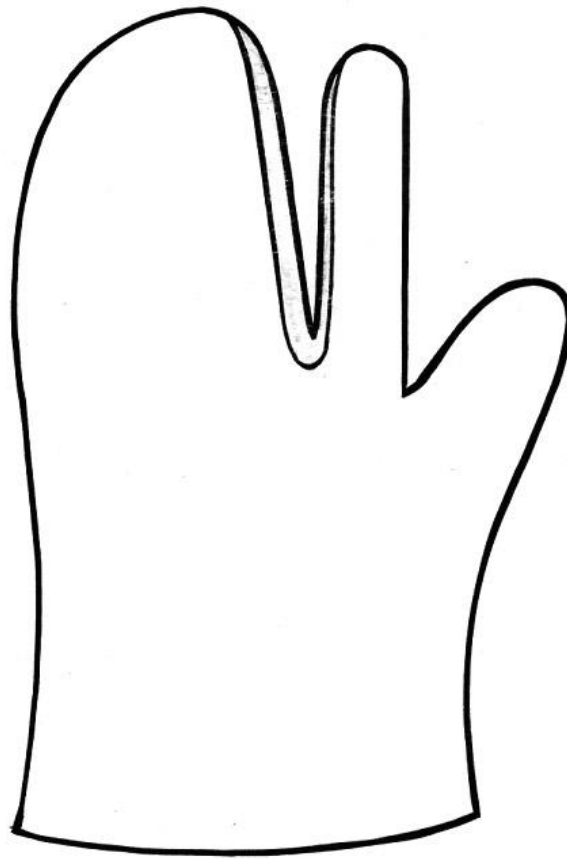


DIAGRAM 29. GARDENING GLOVES

You will need very strong, tough leather although it must be fairly flexible. Sew it with string thread and a thick gloving needle. If you feel you would like to stitch it by machine make sure that your machine will sew really thick stuff and use a fairly large needle. Another method is to pierce holes with a sharp nail and then sew through these. When sewing these gloves by hand make the seams on the right side using stab stitch.

Sleeping Gloves

At one time it used to be possible to buy gloves impregnated with some kind of hand lotion and these were worn during the night. Many people find that even if they rub cream into their hands before going to bed it soon rubs off. This is especially the case where people suffer from chilblains and like to rub some kind of ointment into their fingers that may stain the bedclothes. For both purposes a pair of soft gloves will be found to be of great help. A couple of pairs, daintily finished, would make a delightful Christmas present.

The material you choose for gloves of this kind should be soft and warm. A woolen finished material such as flannel is excellent for the purpose as it does not chill the hands when it is put on, though I have seen good gloves made from the best parts of an old twill sheet. They combined warmth with softness, ease of washing and durability.

There is no need to use an elaborate pattern for these gloves. Fourchettes can be dispensed with, provided the fingers are made wide enough, though a diamond shape gusset at the base of each finger can be used to give a little extra room. Diagram 30 shows how this is put in.

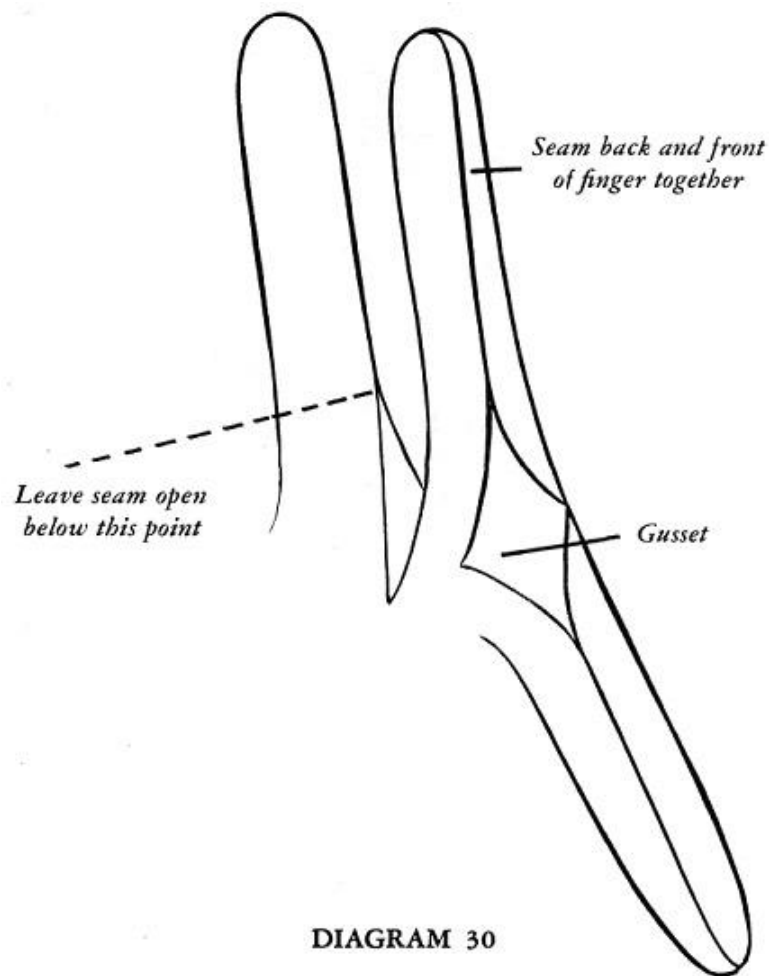


DIAGRAM 30

Make single seams on the wrong side, either by machine or by hand. In the latter case the seams should be backstitched. Turn the gloves right side out and bind the wrist edge with a piece of bias binding in a contrasting color. Embroider a spray of flowers or an initial in a shade to match the binding and press the gloves well.

Gloves made for this purpose must not be the least bit tight, especially if the wearer suffers from chilblains, but as they are apt to slip off during the night if they are not secured in some way, it is wise to insert a piece of elastic right across the front section. This should be tight enough to keep the glove on but loose enough for the wearer not to be conscious of it.

Children's Gloves

Children's gloves are very expensive to buy, but even in these days most mothers like their children to have one pair of kid gloves "for best." If they can be made at home they will cost a good deal less than if they were bought in a shop. They can be made from fairly small pieces of leather, and often a skin which is not large enough for two full-sized pairs of gloves will leave enough over to make a pair for a child. Thin leathers such as kid should be used for children's gloves. Suede and other fancy leathers are not suitable. Patterns, too, should be extremely simple with machine-stitched points, no gauntlets and a one stud fastening.

Fingerless mittens are best for small children as they have great difficulty in finding the right finger, especially when the gloves are lined. Fur-backed gloves and those made from sheepskin should always be

made without fingers. Those with a zip across the hand delight small boys, while fur-backed gloves, “just like Mummy’s,” will please their sisters. Gaily embroidered felt mittens are a good investment for children especially if they are worn over a pair of thin knitted ones.

It may be thought that since gloves for children are smaller than those worn by adults they will be less trouble to make, but I must warn you that this is not always so. Of course, the seams are a little shorter but the pieces from which the glove is made being smaller they are usually more fussy to put together.

Knitted gloves are usually considered the most suitable for toddlers and babies who are still at the pram stage, though some mothers like to dress their offspring in white fur-backed mittens with no thumb or fingers. The palms should be made from white kid. If this is not obtainable doeskin can be used as a substitute.

Caring for Your Gloves

When you have spent a lot of time making a pair of gloves you will not want to spoil them by not caring for them properly. Leather, suede or chamois gloves should never in any circumstances be rolled together in a ball. This creases them and stretches them in the wrong place. Nor should they be thrown anyhow into a drawer to lie tangled up with hankies, scarves and what-have-you. Keep them pressed out flat in a special box or drawer. If your space is limited you can always tuck a lidless box into one corner of a drawer and keep your gloves in that.

The old habit of blowing into each glove as soon as it was removed had much to recommend it, particularly as it was usually followed by the careful smoothing out and putting away of the gloves. Do not make a practice of carrying your gloves in your hand as this makes them creased and limp.

Fur-backed gloves need careful treatment if they are to retain their good looks. When you take them off smooth the fur over the finger tips and never put them away where anything hard is liable to get put on top of them. During the summer it is a good plan to wrap them up in newspaper. Tuck a card impregnated with D.D.T. into the parcel as a precaution against moths. Take them out and shake them once in a while.

Cleaning gloves is often a problem. Suede cannot, as a rule, be successfully cleaned, though it can be made to wear longer by rubbing shiny patches with a piece of emery paper. Brush the gloves afterwards the way of the pile, using a special suede brush. Suede cleaner, such as that sold for cleaning shoes, can be used, but great care must be taken when brushing the gloves afterwards that every trace of the cleaner is removed. If this is not done properly you run the risk of soiling everything you touch.

Chamois and doeskin can, of course, be washed. Put the gloves on and wash in warm, soapy water. Swish several times, using clean soapy water, then pull the gloves into shape gently and lay flat on a towel to dry away from the sun or fire. Pull the gloves on several times while they are drying, kneading them gently to keep the skin supple. Cleaning fluids should never be used on leather as they are liable to damage the surface and may remove the dye.

The woolen linings of gloves sometimes get soiled but it is a comparatively simple matter to clean them. Turn the gloves inside out with the aid of a wooden spoon and clean them with one of the proprietary brands of cleaning fluid, following the directions on the bottle. Be careful not to let the liquid soak through to the leather. Allow the gloves to dry thoroughly, leaving them in a current of air to get rid of any smell, then turn them right side out and pull into shape.

One difficulty sometimes met with in wearing unlined suede gloves is that the dye is liable to come off on the fingers. To prevent or at least to mitigate this, sprinkle talcum powder in the gloves before putting them on.

Never dry wet gloves in front of a fire or on a radiator as this will make the leather hard. Leave them to dry naturally. Fur gloves may be brushed with a soft brush as soon as they are quite dry.

Mending Gloves

Properly made gloves will last for a long time especially if you have been careful to see that they fit well. There does come a time, however, when seams come apart and the gloves need mending. In this case the obvious thing to do is to use similar thread to that with which the glove was originally sewn and simply re sew the seam. Go well past the ends of the split at the beginning and end and be sure to fasten off firmly.

Sometimes an actual hole may be worn in the gloves, usually at the tip of one of the fingers. There are two ways of dealing with this, one for thin leathers and the other for thick. The first method is to cut a scrap of leather slightly larger than the hole. Put the glove on and tuck the small piece of leather under the hole so that it lies smoothly and fell the edges of the hole to the patch with very tiny stitches. If the glove is lined the patch will be tucked between the leather and the lining. If the glove has no lining, turn it inside out and fell the edges of the patch to the wrong side of the leather.

For the second method use matching silk or buttonhole twist and buttonhole very closely and neatly all round the edge of the hole. Go on working, putting the second row into the top loops only of the first row. Continue in this way, going round and round until the hole is completely filled. Take the thread to the inside and fasten off very firmly.

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